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Saudi prince's visit 'is a stain on Queen's memory'

Stephanie Kirchgaessner
Patrick Wintour
Martin Chulov

Plans by the crown prince of Saudi Arabia to visit London to pay his respects to the Queen have been condemned by the fiancée of the murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi and other human rights defenders as a "stain" on the monarch's memory

and an attempt to use mourning to "seek legitimacy and normalisation".

Hatice Cengiz, who was engaged to Khashoggi, who was killed and dismembered by Saudi agents in the Istanbul consulate in 2018, said she wished that Mohammed bin Salman would be arrested for murder in London, but that she feared the UK authorities would turn a blind eye to serious and credible allegations against the future Saudi king.

Inside

Police and security

Funeral will be 'biggest single Met operation ever' [Page 10](#) →

Early days for new King

Temper and emotions on show in first week [Page 12](#) →

The fury at Prince Mohammed's proposed visit came amid an unprecedented security operation for Monday's state funeral, with 300 foreign dignitaries expected and hundreds of thousands of members of the public due to line the route. More than 10,000 police officers will be on duty in their biggest ever operation for a single day.

A source has told the Guardian that Prince **6** →



Michael Jordan Chicago Bulls jersey sells for record-breaking \$10.1m

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David Beckham joins 13-hour queue for Queen's lying in state

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Life Needs a
Big Network



17/09/2022

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News

Heads tell of funding crisis as staffing and energy costs soar

Sally Weale
Education correspondent

Just days into the new academic year headteachers have raised the alarm about the looming funding crisis in schools, with some parents urged to make donations and parent-teacher associations on standby to plug funding gaps for classroom essentials.

With energy bills soaring and wage costs rising, school leaders say money from PTA fundraising efforts will be needed to cover core costs rather than “nice to have” extras. In affluent areas where PTAs are able to raise huge sums it could even be used to save jobs and help pay bills.

Elsewhere, schools say PTAs will struggle to raise funds this winter as the cost of living crisis hits households. Simon Kidwell, the principal of Hartford Manor primary school in Cheshire, said his school would not be asking parents for additional donations. “The PTA are very, very aware that parents don’t have the same money available.”

The crisis raises the prospect of a widening gulf between schools with affluent families, still able to donate money, and those in disadvantaged areas. One finance director at a small trust in the south-east said: “I’m going to the PTA AGM in a couple of



◀ Pupils at Copley Academy in Stalybridge, Tameside. Some schools have cut trips to save cash PHOTOGRAPH: ANTHONY DEVLIN/GETTY IMAGES

weeks’ time. Basically the message will be, as much money as you can raise needs to come to the school. Not for specific projects ... just so that we can keep our core services going.”

Staff at the trust have been removing lightbulbs, turning down the heating and working out which trips to cut in order to save money, but in the face of soaring energy costs it is little more than tinkering. “This is an existential threat,” said the finance director, who asked that he and his trust should remain anonymous.

The electricity bill for one school in the trust has jumped from £122,279 a year to £522,986. The rise in gas prices has been even more dramatic, up from £32,783 last year to £252,926, a 671% increase.

“We’re a well-run trust so we have decent reserves and we can probably

ride this out for a year and see what the government does,” said the director. “If they don’t do anything, our reserves will disappear and we’ll be making significant redundancies. To be honest you might as well give up and go home. Schools are going to stop functioning.”

A letter has gone out to parents warning that costs are rising at an alarming rate and will have “a detrimental impact” on the quality of education provided. It urges them to contact MPs and to consider making a monthly £15 donation or a suggested £180 contribution. The request for parental donations is not new - many schools have run donation schemes for years - but the urgency is.

The new prime minister, Liz Truss, has promised a six-month energy guarantee for the public sector, but few details have been released so far and trust and school leaders say short-term help will not be enough.

“We don’t tend to ask parents for a lot of money,” said Paul Gosling, the headteacher of Exeter Road community primary school in Exmouth, Devon, where 45% of children are eligible for free school meals. The PTFA (parents, teachers and friends association) usually raises about £5,000 a year, which goes on library books and helping children from lower-income families to go on school trips.

£522,986

Annual electricity bill of one school in a trust in the south-east, up from £122,279. Its gas bill has risen 671%

68%

Proportion of PTAs that spent their money on educational materials, including textbooks, in 2019

Teachers at ex-Tory minister’s academy chain vote on strike

Warwick Mansell
Daniel Boffey

Teachers are preparing to strike at an academy chain founded by the former Conservative schools minister John Nash and his wife, claiming the trust is “blighting the life chances of the children”.

The curriculum used by Future Academies, developed by Lord Nash’s wife, Caroline, a stockbroker, is said in a letter to governors of one of the chain’s schools to be among the most narrow in the country.

Latin is the sole language taught at primary level, it is claimed, while history exercises allegedly ask children under 11 to replicate university standard essays.

“Imagine that you are Seneca, in the process of committing suicide, in AD65,” read one ancient history

exercise book for primary pupils seen by this newspaper. “Write your final words to be dictated by your scribe before you immerse yourself in a hot bath and bleed to death.”

According to the teachers’ letter, children are also only allowed to speak in class when asked a question by a teacher and that group work has been forbidden.

Staff, who are being represented by the National Education Union, also claim that the school fails to teach the national curriculum subjects of computing and design and technology.

Academies are outside local authority control and have the freedom to innovate with their curriculum, set the length of the school day and term dates and introduce their own standards for teaching pay and conditions.

The teachers at Churchill Gardens academy, a Future Academies

primary in London where a strike ballot has opened, claim staff are being overworked and the children have been left demoralised. They describe the situation as “untenable”.

“Staff are doing their very best to mitigate the failings of the trust, but this is now a question of public interest,” they write. “The trust cannot be allowed to continue its current course: blighting the life chances of the children in its care and treating its staff with contempt.”

“To ask these children to develop academically and emotionally in classes that are only ever silent, is morally reprehensible, and legally questionable ... Asking a primary child to produce a university standard

essay is akin to asking an adult with no experience of engineering to design an engine with only a Ferrari Formula One engine as a benchmark. With the best teaching in the world, the vast majority would be utterly confused and demoralised by the completely inaccessible model they have been provided with.”

An indicative ballot found unanimous support for a strike at Churchill Gardens. A formal ballot opened this week will end on 28 September with potential action on 13 October.

Future Academies, whose motto is *Libertas Per Cultum*, or Freedom through education, runs 10 academies, including three primaries, and a teacher training college.

It was founded in 2006 by Nash, a venture capitalist and Tory donor, and Lady Nash, described as having had “a successful career in the international division of a French merchant bank”.

Nash was a schools minister between 2013 and 2017 and lead non-executive director across the government from 2020 until this year.

Future Academies was approached for comment.

‘The trust cannot be allowed to blight the life chances of children in its care’

Protest letter Teachers at Future Academies

Death of the gif How a multimillion-dollar business became a victim of its own success

Alex Hern
Technology editor

It's rare for a multimillion-dollar company to explicitly state its business is dying because it's simply too uncool to live. But that's the bold strategy that the gif search engine Giphy has adopted with the UK's competition regulator, which is trying to block a \$400m (£350m) takeover attempt by Facebook's owner, Meta.

Giphy says that there is simply no company other than Meta which would buy it. Its valuation is already down by \$200m from its peak in 2016, and more importantly, its core offering is showing signs of going out of fashion.

"There are indications of an overall decline in gif use," the company says in its filing with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), "due to a waning of user and content partner interest in gifs. They have fallen out of fashion as a content form, with younger users in particular describing gifs as 'for boomers' and 'cringe'."

To underline the point, Giphy's filing included links to several articles and Twitter posts.

The generational divide is real, says Ryan Broderick, a writer on internet culture. "Gifs feel extremely dated. They were never easy to make and didn't work particularly well on mobile."

The animated gif itself is also comfortably millennial: invented in 1989, it pre-dates not only smartphones and social media, but even the world wide web. It exploded in popularity alongside the rise of the web as the easiest way to add motion to a webpage, but it slowly lost ground to other ways of showing pictures that required less of the limited bandwidth of the time.

Its revival came at the turn of the 2010s, alongside the growth of the social network Tumblr. Although gifs were never intended to be a replacement for video, faster internet connections meant they were again the easiest way to share short clips - too short to have any meaning on their own, but perfect for adding colour to posts in the form of the "reaction gif".

Gifs soon became synonymous

The top gifs of 2021



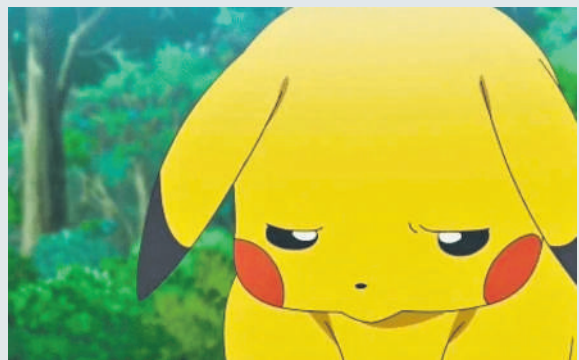
1 Bored Stanley from the US version of The Office



2 Tired Tom from Tom and Jerry



3 Shocked Liam from The Great British Bake Off



4 Sad Pikachu from Pokémon



5 Agatha Harkness Winking from WandaVision

with the format itself. Why reply to a post with "omg", when you can post a quick clip of Donald Glover from the sitcom Community walking into a burning room carrying a stack of pizzas?

At the peak of its cultural impact, making, posting and curating gifs could easily become a full-time job. The best creators were known for the speed with which they could clip out shareable moments from TV shows or live events as they aired, as well as their ability to stretch the format to keep the frame rate high and the file size low.

But while the most dedicated posters kept large archives of all their most-used gifs, carefully sorted and labelled, for many, tracking down exactly the right one to use in any situation was a bore.

That was the problem Giphy sought to solve when it was founded in 2013. As a "search engine for gifs", the company gathered up more than 300,000 from across the web, tagged and categorised them, and helped users find exactly the right one for any given situation.

But democratising gifs also sowed the seeds for their destruction. "Whether by design or intent, Giphy's search tools led to a noticeable monotony in gif culture," said Brian Feldman, an internet culture writer in 2020. "The same principles that apply to Google also seem to apply to Giphy: if you're not in the top three results, you might as well not exist. Reaction gifs became flattened and less diverse."

The top gifs of last year tell their own story. As Giphy grew as a business, to the point where its annual revenue is now estimated at \$27.5m by analysts GrowJo, it also hit another problem: copyright. The company's response was to partner with media outlets to host original gifs, and today, nine of the top-10 gifs on the site in 2021 were posted there by the company that made them, in a cross-promotional push to encourage viral content.

Giphy even lists "its ability to retain key content partners" as a core reason for the CMA to allow it to go ahead with the Meta acquisition, arguing that a less respected owner could jeopardise the relationships.

But the gif has also outgrown Giphy. "Gif" keyboards in apps such as WhatsApp and Twitter may not all use the service - competitors such as Tenor, which was acquired by Google for an undisclosed sum in 2018, also exist - but they all have the same effect: of making it easier than ever for people to send the clips to each other. And yes, that even includes boomers.

Big enchilada goes loco over fellow taco restaurant's use of 'taqueria'

Tom Ambrose

A bitter row is unfolding between two London taco restaurants over the use of the word "taqueria".

Taqueria, which has restaurants in Notting Hill and Exmouth Market, Clerkenwell, served up a cease and desist order aiming to prevent fellow Mexican outlet Sonora Taqueria from trading under its current name.

In a 20-page letter, lawyers told Sonora's owners, Michelle Salazar de la Rocha and Sam Napier, that the use of the word "taqueria" in its branding "constitutes a trademark infringement", giving a deadline of 21 September for the matter to be resolved, Eater London reported.

However, Sonora, which began as a street food stall in Hackney during Covid, is planning to fight, saying the generic nature of the term "taqueria" does not mean that a "consumer

will consider the services that [Sonora is] offering under signs containing Taqueria to be provided by, in association with, or under the authorisation of [Taqueria]."

Ismael Munoz, Taqueria's operations manager, said: "As with all UK trademark registrations, the provisions of the Trademarks Act grant the proprietor the exclusive right to the trademark, and those rights are infringed when the trademark is used in the UK by another undertaking

without the proprietor's consent. As such, Sonora Taqueria Ltd's use of 'taqueria' constitutes trademark infringement." He added: "The trademark 'taqueria' has been in use by Taqueria Worldwide Ltd, and its predecessors, for a highly successful restaurant in London since 2005."

Referring to Taqueria's copyright filing in 2004, Napier told Eater: "I imagine there were very few places in the UK using the word 'taqueria' [then] but now there's lots of them."



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

▼ King Charles in Riyadh in 2014.
In his role as Prince of Wales he
travelled to Saudi Arabia 12 times
PHOTOGRAPH: FAYEZ NURELDINE/AP



Khashoggi fiancée says Saudi prince's UK visit 'stains Queen's memory'

kingdom, the "direct involvement of a key adviser and members of [the prince's] protective detail", and his "support for using violent measures" to silence dissenters such as Khashoggi. The crown prince has denied he was personally involved in planning the murder.

"The Queen's passing is a truly sad occasion," Cengiz said. "The crown prince should not be allowed to be part of this mourning and not be allowed to stain her memory and use this time mourning to seek legitimacy and normalisation."

The news that the heir to the Saudi throne would be making his first trip to London since 2018 was met with dismay among some Saudis in exile, including Abdullah Alaoudh, a prominent Washington-based Saudi dissident who serves as the research director of Dawn, a non-profit founded by Khashoggi that promotes democracy in the Middle East.

Alaoudh said Prince Mohammed's trip came as Saudi Arabia was cracking down "harsher and harder" on human rights defenders, including a 34-year-old PhD student at Leeds University, Salma al-Shehab, who was arrested on a holiday trip home to the kingdom and sentenced to 34 years in jail for using Twitter.

"He is getting emboldened to travel the world after the Khashoggi matter as the result of the dedicated rehabilitation process - whether they

call it this or not - of western leaders," Alaoudh said, pointing to visits to the kingdom by Boris Johnson and Joe Biden.

In its report, CNN Arabic said Prince Mohammed would not be attending the funeral. Alaoudh said he believed the decision probably reflected the crown prince's fragile ego, because, Alaoudh said, he would not have wanted to attend a funeral in which he could not have been seated prominently.

"He would be seated behind other powerful figures," Alaoudh said. "But MBS wants full acknowledgment of his power, his existence, of getting in the front row. He cares a lot about these symbols and does not want to be humiliated."

Another activist, Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei, the UK-based director of advocacy at the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, said: "Authoritarian dictators should not use the Queen's death as an opportunity to try to rehabilitate their image while they escalate repressive campaigns in their countries."

Agnès Callamard, the secretary general of Amnesty International, who investigated the murder of Khashoggi and whose life is alleged to have been threatened by a senior Saudi official, said Prince Mohammed's plan to pay his respects brought to mind the murder of the Washington Post journalist, whose own family

Continued from page 1

Mohammed will travel to the UK to deliver his kingdom's condolences to the royal family, though there has been no confirmation about whether he will attend the funeral service at Westminster Abbey. CNN Arabic first reported the news on Thursday night.

As Prince of Wales, Charles travelled to Saudi Arabia 12 times, and is better known there than the late Queen. He is viewed in the kingdom as having a longstanding sympathetic attitude to the cultures, traditions and history of the region.

A declassified US intelligence report released in 2021 found that the operation to kill or kidnap Khashoggi was approved by Prince Mohammed. The intelligence report said its assessment was based on the crown prince's "control of decision-making" in the



▲ A protester holds a poster of Jamal Khashoggi outside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where he was killed in 2018 PHOTOGRAPH: YASIN AKGUL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▼ *The Queen greets the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, at Buckingham Palace in 2018*

PHOTOGRAPH: DOMINIC LIPINSKI/AFP/GETTY

'The Saudi crown prince should not use this time of mourning to seek legitimacy'

Hatice Cengiz
Khashoggi's fiancée

had been "denied the right to bury Jamal with the dignity he deserved". Saudi Arabia has denied it intended to threaten Callamard.

If he does travel, Prince Mohammed would be among dozens of world leaders and royals set to arrive in London this weekend for the Queen's funeral. Liz Truss will be holding meetings with some of them.

The prime minister is to see President Biden tomorrow in Downing Street, along with the Irish taoiseach, Micheál Martin, the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, and the Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau. She will meet the Australian prime minister, Anthony Albanese, and the New Zealand prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, at Chevening tomorrow. However, the government will not reveal what is discussed because of the national mourning period.

In Saudi Arabia as well as the wider Middle East, there has been consternation over the instruction for leaders to board a bus to travel to Westminster Abbey. "If the King came to our neighbourhood, we would not put him on a bus. Expecting firm friends of King Charles to all gather like schoolboys on a bus to go to the funeral is not the start we were expecting," a Kuwaiti official said.

Signalling the delicate diplomacy surrounding the funeral, the Commons Speaker yesterday banned a Chinese delegation from entering the parliamentary estate to pay respects to the Queen as she lies in state in Westminster Hall, though the ban may not be extended to the country's vice-president.

The Saudi crown prince's visit follows years of reports since Khashoggi's murder that critics of the kingdom who live abroad have faced surveillance and threats by Saudi authorities, including in the UK.

A British judge ruled last month that a case against the kingdom brought by a dissident satirist who was targeted with spyware could proceed, in a decision that has been hailed as precedent-setting.

The case against Saudi Arabia was brought by Ghanem Almasarir, a prominent satirist granted asylum in the UK. At the centre of the case are allegations that Saudi Arabia ordered the hacking of Almasarir's phone, and that he was assaulted by agents of the kingdom in London in 2018.

Saudi Arabia's attempt to have the case dismissed on the grounds that it had sovereign immunity protection under the State Immunity Act 1978 was dismissed by a high court judge, who found that Almasarir had provided enough evidence to conclude, on the balance of probabilities, that Saudi Arabia was responsible for the alleged assault. Saudi Arabia's claim that the case was too weak or speculative to proceed was dismissed.

Additional reporting
Rowena Mason



'We wouldn't put Charles on a bus' Gulf royals balk at British funeral protocol

Martin Chulov
Middle East correspondent

From Oman in the east to Morocco in the west, Middle East and north African royalty have been closely monitoring plans for the Queen's funeral, but with days to go until the biggest event in modern royal history, they are unlikely to travel to London in numbers.

Monarchies have sought to divine meaning from protocol arrangements, and are largely underwhelmed by what they have been seeing. An expectation that the kings and presidents of the region board a bus to travel to Westminster Abbey has not been received well. Nor have mooted seating plans that place regional royals and presidents on pews well behind Commonwealth leaders.

Leaders of Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been uncertain who to send to what would be one of the biggest gatherings of global leaders in decades. Kuwait is thought to be sending its crown prince, and Abu Dhabi a vice-president. Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Mohammed bin Salman, is thought to be planning to travel – in his first trip to the UK since the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi – but a final decision had not been made 72 hours before dignitaries were due to gather.

If Prince Mohammed does fly to London, he is not expected to take part in formal ceremonies and is instead likely to offer private condolences to a king who was better known in Saudi Arabia than the late Queen herself. Hopes are high that Charles will help

improve ties between London and Riyadh, which have been strained in the turbulent years since Prince Mohammed came to power.

As Prince of Wales, King Charles travelled to Saudi Arabia 12 times, and is seen in the kingdom as having a longstanding sympathy towards the culture and history of the region. Charles has also taken a strong interest in Islam, and is believed to have taken basic Arabic lessons.

"Charles has built up really strong relationships with royal families in the gulf over decades and has done so on the basis of friendship and shared royal blood, which matters particularly to the Saudis," said a former British diplomat who was based in Riyadh. "I think that gives him the basis for frank conversations. And for a long time, he has had the ability to raise issues and even be critical in a way that shorter-term political leaders find quite hard."

"He used to go and spend time with the late King Abdullah in the desert in a tent. I remember a friend telling me that they played bowls together in the sand. You take the time to go and stay overnight and deal with them in places that they live, then that matters. The



▲ *The former Qatari PM Hamid bin Jassim donated £2.5m to the then Prince of Wales's charity foundation*

extent to which he'll be able to continue to do that now that he's king is an open question. Because he'll be much more conservative about how he chooses to wield his influence. But the fact is, to the extent that he chooses to help the British government, he will be a very positive influence.

"He's obviously had the issue with the cash [donation] that came up a few months ago, but there are some positives to be found."

King Charles has also built strong ties in the UAE and Qatar, the latter of which stirred controversy in July when revelations emerged of £2.5m in cash donations made by the former Qatari prime minister, Hamid bin Jassim, to the Prince of Wales's Charitable Fund.

In Abu Dhabi, expectations of deeper ties are high. The Queen's reign oversaw the UAE's establishment as a country in 1971 and its growth in the five decades since. Elizabeth visited Dubai and Abu Dhabi several times, on state occasions seen as promoting British trade ties.

"But when it came to Charles, he was able to sit down and talk the talk with them," said a British official with ties to the Gulf. "He was prepared to advance British interests. He won't be able to do that as King, but they know that he understands them. He hasn't been banging on about the tyranny of autocracy for years. He isn't a preacher like some British officials."

How King Charles will recalibrate his friendships will be keenly watched in all the Gulf capitals, where expectations are strong that the new monarch will offer a familiar, less formal approach.

"There is a lot hanging on this, in the eyes of the Gulf Cooperation Council," said a Kuwaiti official. "Everyone is reading the tea leaves. However, it's not off to a good start. If the King came to our neighbourhood, we would not put him on a bus. Expecting firm friends of King Charles to all gather like schoolboys on a bus to go to the funeral is not the start we were expecting. That's why some of us are staying away."

China Delegation is banned from late Queen's lying in state

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

The Commons Speaker has banned a Chinese delegation from entering the parliamentary estate to pay respects to the Queen as she lies in state in Westminster Hall, but the ban may not be extended to the country's vice-president.

The delegation accompanying the Chinese vice-president, Wang Qishan, is being banned because seven British parliamentarians have sanctions imposed on them by China for spreading "lies and disinformation".

The vice-president is flying 5,000 miles from Beijing to attend the Queen's funeral, and the decision of the Commons Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, has been made independently of the palace. He has responsibility for Westminster Hall, where the Queen's coffin rests. The Speaker's office initially refused to comment, saying it was a security issue.

The Chinese ambassador to London, Zheng Zeguang, was banned from entering the estate a year ago in a dispute that originates from UK claims that Chinese authorities have suppressed the rights of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province. At the time, Hoyle said the ban on the ambassador would remain in place so long as sanctions remained on British MPs.

The Chinese embassy responded to the ambassador's exclusion saying "the despicable and cowardly action of certain individuals of the UK parliament to obstruct normal exchanges and cooperation between China and the UK for personal political gains is against the wishes and harmful to the interests of the peoples of both countries".

Heads of state visiting London for the funeral have been invited in groups to attend the lying in state in Westminster Hall ahead of Monday's service. The ban on the Chinese delegation was first reported by Politico.

In March 2021, the UK placed sanctions for gross human rights abuses on four senior officials and the Public Security Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. China then imposed its reprisals on a group of MPs and academics.

Tim Loughton, one of the Conservative MPs banned by Beijing, said the invitation to China should never have been issued in the first place. "We are not talking about someone that has caused a minor indiscretion. China is a dangerous country," he said.

Loughton had written to the Speaker in conjunction with the former Conservative leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the Labour peer Helena Kennedy and the independent peer David Alton. They claimed it "would be wholly inappropriate for any representative of the Chinese government to be able to come to the Palace of Westminster".



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



◀ King Charles meets members of the public after attending a service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff

PHOTO: FRANK AUGSTEIN/AFP/GETTY

Charles greeted by supporters – and some protesters – in first visit to Wales as King

Steven Morris
Caroline Davies

For more than half a century he held the title Prince of Wales but in autumnal sunshine yesterday, Charles was helicoptered across the Severn from his Gloucestershire country home for his first visit to the country as King.

The reaction of the crowds that lined the streets of the Welsh capital was largely warm but he was booed as he entered Cardiff Castle by anti-monarchy protesters and there were small demonstrations at Llandaff Cathedral and the Senedd.

Charles's announcement that

William is to be made Prince of Wales has been greeted with anger by some, who see it as a symbol of English oppression over Wales.

Protesting outside the cathedral, where Charles, Camilla, the Queen Consort, and the prime minister, Liz Truss, attended a service of prayer and reflection, was Laura Thomas-Walters, 29, a conservation scientist.

Thomas-Walters said: "In the 21st century in a democratic country an unelected head of state has no place. It's an antiquated system of class oppression which is especially heinous at a time when inequalities are rising so fast.

"I don't think the Prince of Wales

title should exist. If it did, it should belong to a Welsh person."

Inside the cathedral, the archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, said the Queen had been able to bring people together in difficult circumstances, such as her visit to the site of the 1966 Aberfan disaster, where 144 people lost their lives when a coal tip collapsed on a primary school.

The Welsh language was front and centre at the service, with the first minister, Mark Drakeford, reading from the first book of Kings in Welsh. Camilla wore a silver leek brooch given to her by the Queen. After the service, Charles and Camilla went on a walk around the Cathedral Green.

Susie Eardley, who gave the King a red rose, explained: "He gave me a rose in 1983 when he visited a conservation project at Dunraven Castle in south Wales. He had a red rose in his lapel and pinned it to my overalls. I thought I'd give him a rose today."

Lynda Fowler was beside herself with joy at her meeting with the King. She said: "He touched my veteran's badge. I was in the RAF. I can't wait to tell my grandchildren, they'll be so excited."

A lone male voice shouted: "We pay £100m a year for you, and for what?"

Queen Elizabeth II's children paid their respects at their mother's

coffin before her state funeral at the vigil of princes in Westminster Hall yesterday evening. The King, Princess Royal, Duke of York and Earl of Wessex stood at four corners of the catafalque, a tribute they first paid at St Giles's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

This evening the Queen's eight grandchildren will stand vigil beside her coffin. As non-working members of the royal family, Prince Andrew and Prince Harry have been permitted to wear uniform for the solemn vigils at the King's request.

Charles's visit to Wales coincided with Owain Glyndŵr Day, which celebrates the life and legacy of the last Welsh Prince of Wales. Llandaff Cathedral was damaged in Glyndŵr's 15th-century fight against the English.

At the Senedd, the Welsh parliament, Charles said his mother had taken great pride in the country's achievements and felt its sorrow. He said: "Through all the years of her reign, the land of Wales could not be closer to my mother's heart."

Charles's attitude to the Senedd is important. His mother was a friend to the devolved institution and his support – especially given that the English Tory establishment is often seen as dismissive – may help.

Laura McAllister, a professor of public policy and the governance of Wales at Cardiff University, said: "Having the Queen's support helped add gravitas, status, legitimacy and profile to an institution that was crying out for it. I think Charles will approach his engagement with devolution in the same way."

There was a small protest outside the Senedd but a larger one at the gates of Cardiff Castle, where Charles had a private audience with Drakeford.

Banners featured the slogans "Abolish the monarchy", "Citizen not subject" and "Democracy now". Glyndŵr flags were flown and one man held up a placard saying: "End Prince of Wales title".

Organisers had said the protest would be silent but there were boos as the King entered the castle. One protester, Ryan, from Newport, said: "The monarchy is a feudalistic anachronism. Passing power on others by virtue of inheritance does not strike me as compatible with the principle of democracy. We should rethink."

William Champions of Welsh urge prince to learn language

Steven Morris

Champions of the language and nationalist politicians have called for the new Prince of Wales to learn Welsh, after the country's first minister stressed how important it was for modern Wales.

Mark Drakeford said that nobody expected William to suddenly be fluent in Welsh but suggested he would "want to recognise the importance of

Welsh and the part it plays in shaping contemporary Wales".

Nia Jeffreys, a Plaid Cymru councillor who has campaigned for St David's Day to be made a bank holiday, agreed. "The Welsh language is central to modern Wales. An understanding and respect for the language is crucial to anyone involved in public life in Wales," she said.

Jeffreys added: "I am sure many would support and help William and Kate should they decide to embark on the journey of learning."

King Charles spent nine weeks at Aberystwyth University learning Welsh language and history before his investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969. He went on to give a number of speeches in Welsh.

Plaid Cymru's spokesperson on Welsh language and culture, Heledd Fychan, said: "Plaid Cymru want to ensure that everyone has the right to learn and use Welsh. That should, of course, include Prince William too."

It angered some that Charles's visit to Wales took place on Owain Glyndŵr Day, a celebration of the life and legacy of the last Welshman to be known as Prince of Wales. Many nationalists and republicans see the modern incarnation of the title as a symbol of English oppression and



▲ William faces calls to learn Welsh from campaigners and politicians

almost 30,000 people have signed a petition calling for it to be abolished.

Huw Morgan, one of the organisers of an event in mid Wales to celebrate Owain Glyndŵr Day, said: "The short answer is he should learn Welsh."

Some are so against the concept of the Prince of Wales title that they think the debate about him speaking Welsh is irrelevant.

Ffred Ffrancis, a member of the pressure group Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Society), said: "Learning a bit of Welsh would be tokenistic. The truth is that we were 'trafficked' as a people from one prince to another. Insults we can put up with, and are accustomed to them. But this is a medieval affront to democracy."

Anatomy of a crown

2,868 diamonds, 17 sapphires, four rubies, 11 emeralds and 269 pearls

Esther Addley

The Imperial State Crown, the latest incarnation of which has been resting on the Queen's coffin as thousands have filed past this week, has witnessed many resonant moments in history, and a few less majestic ones too.

After the death of the Queen's grandfather, George V, for instance, the king's coffin was being transported from King's Cross station in London with the crown on top when the jolting of cobbled streets caused the diamond-encrusted globe on top, and the cross and sapphire it supports, to snap off and roll into a gutter.

Though it was hastily retrieved, the dead monarch lay in state under a mutilated crown, which many in the crowd, including the new king, Edward VIII, took as a bad omen. Sure enough, 11 months later he abdicated.

The tradition of crowns representing royalty is "a time-honoured thing seen in cultures across the world and through deep time," notes Anna Keay, a former curator at the Tower of London who has written the official guide to the crown jewels. "The business of wearing something on your head that speaks of your status as a special person - we see it through millennia."

Enchanting or repulsive, in other words, the vast, ridiculous excess of the crown's 2,868 diamonds, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, four rubies, and 269 pearls is its symbolic point. These are some of their stories:

1 St Edward's sapphire
This may be the oldest stone in the crown, having been buried as a ring, according to legend, with King Edward the Confessor in 1066 (and dug out of his grave a century later). Edward had given the ring to a beggar, the story goes, who turned out to be St John the Evangelist. The remarkable Wilton diptych, now



▲ The queen said 'I like to think of [the ruby] being worn by Henry V'

in the National Gallery, may show Richard II wearing it in a ring.

On the other hand - this could be a different sapphire entirely. After the civil war, the medieval crown jewels were broken up, melted and sold.

Charles II had new regalia made at the Restoration from whatever jewels he could reacquire; this sapphire wasn't added until the Victorian era.

"The difficulty is it is very hard to confidently identify any of these gems to say confidently that they are the ones from before," says Keay, who is now the director of the Landmark Trust.

In the case of the sapphire, disappointingly, "I don't think the case is very strong."

"In crown terms it's quite small,"

she adds. "Obviously, in everyone else's terms it's enormous."

2 The Black Prince's ruby

Actually a 170-carat spinel, it is certainly a very ancient unfaceted jewel that was pierced at some point in its history (a little visible lump is a ruby plugging the hole). The Black Prince is said to have demanded it in exchange for helping Peter of Castile (variously known as "the Just" or "the Cruel" depending on one's point of view). Peter had taken the stone from Abu Said, the ruler of Granada, stabbing him to death while he was trying to surrender, which may settle the question of the nickname.

A delightfully dated 1960s film

'Apparently [the manager] just dug [the diamond] out of the rock face with his walking stick'

Queen Elizabeth II
On the Cullinan diamond

available on YouTube shows the Queen talking about the crown, saying of the ruby: "I always like to think of it being worn by King Henry V during the Battle of Agincourt." Richard III may also have had it on his helmet when he was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, the Tudors retrieving it before it ended up with his body under a car park.

3 Queen Elizabeth's earrings

The Imperial Crown is so named not because of the British Empire, but because of its closed arch form, which Henry VIII adopted (instead of an open coronet) to signal his supposedly imperial status. Dangling from the centre of the arches and just seen are four large pear-shaped pearls.

According to the Royal Collection Trust, these have been linked to seven pearls that Catherine de Medici gave to her daughter-in-law, Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth I may have later worn them as earrings, though she apparently preferred pearls on her costume.

On the other hand, notes the trust, "it appears that at least two of the pearls did not enter the collection until the 19th century", which undermines some of the Elizabethan romance.

4 Cullinan II

So named because, even at a boggling 317 carats, it is not the biggest jewel cut from the Cullinan gem, the biggest uncut diamond ever discovered.

That, at 531 carats, is in the Sovereign's Sceptre, which is also currently perched on top of the coffin in Westminster Hall.

Though some in the continent would undoubtedly welcome it back, the "Second Star of Africa" does not have a particularly disputed origin - unlike the Koh-i-Noor diamond, which is currently set in the Queen Mother's crown, which very much does.

The Cullinan diamond was found in a mine in South Africa in 1905 - "apparently [the manager] just dug it out of the rock face with his walking stick," according to the Queen. The government of Transvaal bought the stone and presented it to Edward VII on his 67th birthday.

"There are two smaller pieces," the Queen continued, "which my grandmother always referred to as 'the chips'."



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

More than 10,000 police on duty to ensure funeral goes smoothly

Vikram Dodd
Rowena Mason

The Queen's funeral will be the biggest ever event for the police and Whitehall, with thousands of mourners lining the streets and 500 visiting foreign dignitaries.

Police chiefs say their presence on the streets on Monday will be the largest on record, with more than 10,000 officers on duty determined to thwart any attempt to disrupt or exploit the event.

Thousands of people are expected to line the funeral route through central London, and then in Windsor, Berkshire, where the late Elizabeth II will be buried, and along the route in between.

About 500 foreign dignitaries are also expected for the state funeral in Westminster Abbey, triggering the biggest personal protection operation undertaken by the Met.

Liz Truss, the prime minister, is expected to meet six world leaders, including the US president, Joe Biden, and the Irish taoiseach, Michael Martin, over the weekend with private talks at No 10 and Chevening – the grace and favour country estate designated to the foreign secretary.

However, many foreign royals and heads of state are being expected to take shuttle buses rather than private cars to the Westminster Abbey service on Monday.

Ahead of the funeral day, more than 100,000 people are already believed to have joined the five-mile queue to see the Queen lying in state in Westminster Hall.

The NHS said ambulances had attended to help more than 400 people who collapsed, fainted or fell ill while waiting. The London ambulance service is deploying 300 extra staff on the day of the funeral and asked people to “use the service wisely” on Monday.

Thousands of civil servants – a core team of more than 100 as well as volunteers – have mobilised to deliver the planning for the funeral, led by Sarah Healey, the permanent secretary of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Daily meetings have been chaired by Nadhim Zahawi, the chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, with the first one chaired by Truss.

Government sources said the Queen's funeral was the biggest public service event since the Olympics and one of the largest ever, as well as being the biggest international event for foreign dignitaries coordinated by the Foreign Office.

The government is refusing to put a price tag on the event, which has been decades in the planning and involved

looking at archive information on the funerals of former monarchs.

The begins at 11am on Monday at Westminster Abbey, before a hearse carrying the Queen's coffin makes its way to St George's Chapel at Windsor for a smaller committal ceremony before her private family burial.

The Met police deputy assistant commissioner, Stuart Cundy, said commanders had plans in place to thwart or deal with any attempted attack or disruption.

He said the “scale and complexity” of policing the funeral was immense, with officers being drafted in from forces around the country so the Met can manage the funeral and other demands across the capital.

Cundy said: “This will be on Monday the biggest single deployment of police officers in an operation that the Met police has ever undertaken.

“As a single event this is larger than the 2012 Olympics, it is larger than the platinum jubilee weekend.”

He declined to give a figure but in a separate interview the Met commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, said more officers would be involved in policing the day of the funeral than make up England's second-largest force, West Midlands police, which has 7,579 officers.

For the London 2012 Olympics, statistics from police chiefs show that about 9,500 officers were deployed in the capital alone. For the Queen's funeral, the Met and the Thames Valley force are both making their biggest ever deployment on a single day, knowing any errors would lead to damaging criticism at a time of national mourning.

Cundy said plans for such big events were always evolving, and the stabbing attack on two officers yesterday morning would be taken into account, although he stressed officers “do not believe [the stabbings] to be either terror-related or related to events surrounding the death of Her Majesty the Queen”.

Cundy said there would not be a ban on protest, and that every officer policing in the London area had been reminded of the right to do so: “We have ensured that all of our officers ... all those colleagues deployed here in London, understand that people have a right to protest. Our response will be proportionate, it will be balanced, and our officers will only be taking action where absolutely necessary.”

Police added that in central London alone, 36km of barriers would be used to help marshal the crowds, with officers on the ground supported by helicopters and commanders monitoring and directing the security operation from a hi-tech control room.



Screen coverage Queen's funeral shaping up to be TV event of the century

Jim Waterson
Media editor

Miles of television broadcast cabling has been laid, almost every satellite truck in the UK has been hired out, and international broadcasters are offering wads of money to anyone who can secure them a broadcast plot overlooking the ceremony.

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II is a global TV event that has been planned for decades – yet at the same time pulled together in just 10 days.

“I’ve been in the business so long I first started rehearsing the Bridges events 30 years ago,” said the presenter Dermot Murnaghan, referring to the internal codenames for the deaths of a major royal. The presenter, who will be co-hosting Sky News's coverage of the funeral with Anna Botting, said preparations had been quietly stepped up since the summer: “I’ve been travelling around

with a black tie in my back pocket for the last few weeks. We saw the pictures of her with Boris, we knew she had mobility issues, and she was 96.”

Yet even the best-rehearsed plans can fall apart, as Murnaghan found out last Thursday when informing viewers that the Queen had died: “It ended up with me making the announcement in the pouring rain holding an umbrella, my phone, and water peeing down my neck.”

Almost every major British television channel – with the exception of Channel 5, which is showing The Emoji Movie – has cleared its schedule for royal coverage on Monday. For the most part, viewers will see the same raw images of the main events on the BBC, ITV, and Sky News. All three outlets have coordinated on a well-rehearsed plan to pool their resources and provide a single national video feed.

“There probably aren’t many pieces of outside broadcast equipment in

Britain that aren’t on this event,” said Michael Jermy, director of news at ITV. “People will be rigging cables and cameras throughout this weekend.”

Cameras which were due to be filming the arrival of Coronation Street stars at the cancelled National Television Awards have been taken out and redeployed. Leading broadcast technicians were arriving in Amsterdam for an industry conference, only to immediately head back to London to start putting equipment in place when the Queen's death was announced.

Jermy said the pooled footage meant each broadcaster's coverage of the funeral would be shaped solely by the tone of its presenters and experts. His channel is relying on Tom Bradby and Julie Etchingham, with a promise to keep interventions to a minimum: “It will be possible to watch ITV and see the events happening in front of you without too much interruption by commentators or people talking. We will let the events breathe, people will hear the music, hear what people in the cathedral are saying.”

Murnaghan, who will be based at Windsor Castle, said he hoped to keep out of shot for as long as possible: “This is a ceremony that’s evolved over centuries with uniforms and magic wands, it’s about letting the pictures do the talking.” He said he

▼ *The queue of those wishing to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth, near Tower Bridge in central London*

PHOTOGRAPH: MARCIN NOWAK/LNP



'It's special' Beckham joins queue and hails monarch's legacy

Jamie Grierson
Emily Dugan

David Beckham queued for 13 hours for the Queen's lying in state yesterday, saying it was "special to be here".

On a day when the queue was temporarily closed owing to high demand, the former England football captain joined other high-profile figures seen waiting to pay tribute this week, including the former prime minister Theresa May; the presenters of *This Morning*, Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield; and the *Good Morning Britain* host Susanna Reid.

Beckham was appointed an OBE for services to football in June 2003 in the Queen's birthday honours list.

Speaking about paying tribute to the Queen on the football pitch, Beckham told ITV News: "Every time that we stood there when we wore those Three Lion shirts and I had my armband and we sang God save our Queen, that was something that meant so much to us."

He added: "Every time that we did it, it was something special. So this day was always going to be difficult, and it's difficult for the nation, it's difficult for everyone around the world, because I think everyone is feeling it, and our thoughts are with the family and obviously with everybody here today."

"Because it's special to be here, to celebrate, and to hear the different stories that people have to say."

Speaking about joining the queue, he added: "I thought by coming at 2am it was going to be a little bit quieter - I was wrong."

Beckham said he felt "lucky" to have spent time with the Queen. When asked whether he had any anecdotes about his experiences with the Queen, he told ITV News: "Probably the most special moment for me was when I received my OBE."

"To receive my OBE, I took my grandparents with me, who were the ones that really brought me up to be a huge royalist and a fan of the royal family, and obviously I had my wife there as well."

"To step up, to get my honour, but then also Her Majesty, to ask questions, to talk, I was so lucky that I was able to have a few moments like that in my life, to be around Her Majesty."

"Because we can all see, with the love that has been shown, how special she is and how special she was and the legacy that she leaves behind."

"It's a sad day, but it's a day for us to remember the incredible legacy that she's left."

The public queue to attend the Queen's lying in state paused temporarily yesterday.

The gates to the western entrance to Southwark Park in south-east London were closed at 12.05pm, to the consternation of those hoping to join the queue, only to be reopened 13 minutes later when officials realised people were ignoring instructions to disperse and were queueing on the road anyway.

Charlie Cummins, 64, was the first to be turned away. An online languages teacher visiting the UK from Brazil, he said: "If I'd known it was closing I wouldn't have gone."



▲ *Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's PM, after viewing the Queen's coffin*

▲ *David Beckham chats to police officers after attending the Queen's lying in state in London yesterday*

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM NICHOLSON/REUTERS

to Sainsbury's. I really wish I hadn't now."

Less than a quarter of an hour later, the gates were open again and Cummins was in. "Having told us to hang fire for four hours, some people left to hang fire. I'm glad I stayed," he said.

Chan Bisessar, 76, a retired mental health nurse, was not put off by the announcements. She had travelled from Norbury in south London with her partner, Raj Paramal, 75.

"In Clapham Junction they did say that the queue was closed but we didn't pay too much attention to it," Bisessar said.

Wearing a Rotary club scarf bearing the flags of the Commonwealth, she said she had come to the UK from what was then British Guiana in 1965 and had always been a fan of the Queen. "Given the service she has done, I thought it was very little to ask to pay my respects."

Confusion had reigned as public announcements on the Tube said the queue would be closed, but streams of people continued to be allowed in.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said in a tweet at 9.50am: "Southwark Park has reached capacity. Entry will be paused for at least 6 hours. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Please do not attempt to join the queue until it reopens."

Janice Newman, 70, a crown court usher from Stockwell, was another undeterred by the official position. "At Tower Hill they said they were stopping people but they're obviously not," Newman said. "I came all this way so I thought I'd just go and see what happens."

She had a shopping bag with sandwiches and a small amount to drink for the 14-hour wait ahead. "I don't want to drink too much. I'm worried about the toilet," she said, laughing.

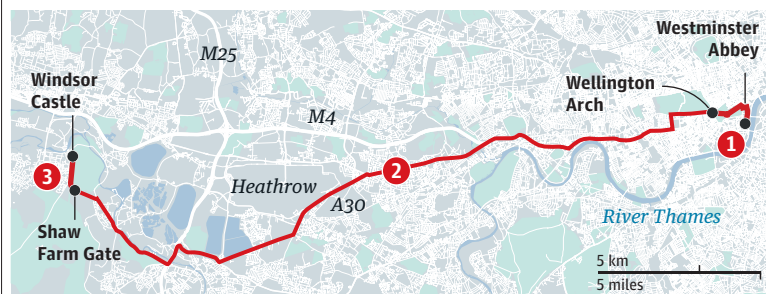
Just after 5pm yesterday the government announced the waiting time to see the Queen's coffin was more than 24 hours and warned that "overnight temperatures will be cold".

The Queen's final journey

1. To Wellington Arch
Queen's coffin carried by gun carriage up to this point

2. To Windsor
By hearse avoiding motorways, so people can see her pass

3. To Windsor Castle
By gun carriage along Long Walk



© OpenStreetMap contributors

had a rule for when he needed to make an intervention: "Do it solemnly, do it quickly, and shut up."

Television viewing figures are likely to be high, even in an age where fewer people get their news from broadcast channels. The BBC, which has rarely interrupted its royal coverage since the Queen died, will rely on Huw Edwards and Kirsty Young to helm its coverage, with assistance from Fergal Keane, David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth.

Millions more people are expected to watch online streams. There have been nerves at the BBC after its iPlayer service struggled to cope with

the number of people trying to stream news of the Queen's death.

British channels have also had to deal with requests for assistance from international broadcasters. US TV networks have deployed some of their biggest-name presenters to London, with the likes of NBC Today's presenter Savannah Guthrie flying in for hosting duties.

While international broadcasters had long-agreed logistics plans, channels from smaller countries have been left begging for space for their news anchors after failing to pre-book hotel balconies with a suitable backdrop.



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



First days as king Charles shows his temper, but also his emotions in a draining week

Caroline Davies



In the end, it was the pens that did it. Twice. Taking on a demanding schedule of head of state duties and public appearances while simultaneously dealing with profound personal sorrow, it was likely that something would have to give. And for the exhausted King, the focus of his frustration was the pens.

At his proclamation, last Saturday he frantically motioned to an aide to remove a box of pens that was impeding him as he signed his solemn declaration and oath.

On Tuesday, signing a visitors' book at Hillsborough Castle, the King's exasperation at a leaking fountain pen was also captured on camera. "Oh god, I hate this," he snapped, handing the implement

to the Queen Consort, ensuring it leaked over her hands. "I can't bear this bloody thing ... every stinking time," he added, walking away.

It was a glimpse of the Charles that his private staff have witnessed over the years, a man wont to express his ire volubly.

Of course, it is something his mother would not have been seen to do in public, though the Windsor temper is said to be a hereditary trait. His grandfather King George VI was famous for his "gnashes", as the family referred to his outbursts, which would inevitably see the Queen Mother holding his wrist and counting his pulse as he calmed down.

But then, Queen Elizabeth II did not immediately complete the punishing round of official visits to Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff that Charles has done so swiftly to cement his accession. "The Queen didn't have to do anything like

what he's doing now. Of course, as time went on she went to all the big cities. That's how they did it then," said the royal historian Hugo Vickers.

"But not in those first days, before the funeral. She went to the accession council, and she had those heads of state duties. She came back from Kenya, and after the accession council and the proclamation she went up to Sandringham to be with her mother and sister.

"So, this is new. And, obviously, important, because the world has moved on. And he has had to show his loyalty to Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast in this way and it has clearly been very successful."

As Charles takes on his new roles of head of state, his six new red boxes bearing his royal cypher, in which he will receive his important papers, are in production by the luxury British leather goods



company Barrow Hepburn & Gale. He is also head of the family. From the moment of the Queen’s death, his siblings would know their place now was to bow and curtsy before him. When the Queen came to the throne, Queen Mary, George V’s widow, was the first person to curtsy to her as her “loyal subject,” said Vickers.

Observers have been struck by Charles’s sense of composure, at the Vigil of the Princes that he and his siblings held at their mother’s coffin, and at the procession and service for the lying in state at Westminster Hall.

“He has looked completely exhausted. When we lose a loved one, we don’t have to have it in our faces as he has had,” said the royal author Penny Junor. “He has had to be out there, looking at that coffin in front of him, in raw grief, in public. There’s not one minute when he has got the privacy just to

◀ *‘Everyone wants a piece of him’: the King sits with the Queen Consort in Westminster Hall on Monday*
PHOTOGRAPH: DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

collapse. Everybody has wanted a piece of him, that’s the sad reality of his position.”

His relative composure contrasts with the abject grief so publicly visible during the funeral of the Queen Mother. It’s an indication, said Vickers, of his awareness of his position as King as well as that of bereaved son.

“When the Queen Mother died, it was all: ‘I’ve been dreading this moment, what’s going to happen to me now, I’ve lost my best ally.’ At her funeral he looked so crushed. There were pictures of him walking alone in the hills of Scotland, a miserable character.

“This time, he has done the absolute opposite,” Vickers added, referencing the King’s address when Charles acknowledged “her death brings great sadness to so many of you”. “Of course he had been dreading this moment. But with those words he was comforting us. What I would say is that he is looking out instead of looking in. Which is a big change. And that is what he has really got right.”

In all of his speeches this week, in the references to Burns and to Shakespeare, each carefully chosen, Charles has been especially emotional. “He is a very emotional man. I think we should learn to like that about him,” Vickers said.

This weekend, the public will see him welcoming heads of state and international leaders in his new role for the first time, at an official reception at Buckingham Palace for VIPs invited to attend the funeral.

Away from the public eye, he has been continuing a relentless schedule. He has had telephone conversations with, among others, the presidents of the United States, Ireland and France, and governors general of Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

At his Gloucestershire home, Highgrove, where he spent Thursday, he took calls from the presidents of Rwanda, Italy, Germany, Greece, the prime minister of Barbados, and the king of Saudi Arabia, just to name a few.

Throughout it all, he has had to cement a relationship with a new prime minister, woo leaders of the Commonwealth nations, meet leaders across the political divide in Northern Ireland, and navigate other significant diplomatic moments.

For many, however, the highlight was his address to the nation, with its references to dedication, duty, gratitude and love, which is widely regarded as pitch-perfect. “And it was so clever and right to have included Harry and Meghan in that speech,” said Junor. It was an indication of the diplomacy required as head of family, not just as head of state.

He is aware his every word and action on the international stage will be subject to scrutiny as never before. “But he is very well trained,” said Vickers. “He comes to the throne with experience. He’s not a new man. He’s been around.”

‘I feel very sorry for him’ Has monarch had the space to grieve for his mother?

Robert Booth
Social affairs correspondent

With King Charles criss-crossing the UK to lead the national mourning this week, one concern has been repeated among his wellwishers: has his tour left him space to grieve properly?

Yesterday, his spokesperson said he has been taking time to reflect and mourn, but a bereavement expert warned the pace of his engagements may be in conflict with a healthy mourning process.

Under a long-planned itinerary, the 73-year-old worked long days in London, Edinburgh and Northern Ireland this week and had engagements in Wales yesterday, meetings with the military chiefs of staff today and has a reception of heads of state tomorrow at Buckingham Palace. On Monday, there is the Queen’s state funeral at Westminster Abbey, committal service at St George’s chapel in Windsor and her private burial next to Prince Philip.

On Tuesday, outside Hillsborough Castle, the King bounded out of his car to spend 10 minutes talking directly with scores of wellwishers, smiling and laughing. At the end of the line, Ingrid Graham, 36, said that he had replied to her condolences with: “Thank you. I wouldn’t wish this on anybody.”

Last Saturday, an irritated Charles signalled for aides to move a pen holder that had got in his way as he signed documents. Four days later, on his tour of Northern Ireland, he reacted with anger after the pen he was using leaked.

Were his momentary flashes of temper due to pressure or grief, or is it a family trait?

Although the Queen seems to have displayed remarkable calmness while on public duty, a rare occasion when she may have lost her composure was a photocall in 2007 with Annie Leibovitz, the US photographer.

BBC cameras caught an exchange when Leibovitz told the monarch that the photo would “look better without the crown because the garter robe is so -”



▲ *People leave flowers at the gates of Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland on Saturday, two days before a visit by the new King*

Joyce Martin, 60, a retired electricity board worker, who shook his hand in Hillsborough, added: “I feel very sorry for him. I know it is protocol but it’s his mother and he needs to grieve.”

He met the leaders of Northern Ireland’s fractious politics, he had an audience with the secretary of state and then, signing a visitor book, he wrote the wrong date and his pen leaked. He snapped. “I can’t bear this bloody thing ... every stinking time,” he said, as he stalked away.

This was “a really normal grief reaction”, said Sharon Jenkins, a Marie Curie bereavement counsellor.

“One of the stages of grief is anger and frustration,” she said. “Things just don’t make sense any more. The life you lived changed just like that. Your emotions have been thrown out of kilter into the unknown ... People seem to break down at the small things.”

She said a healthy bereavement

‘By avoiding the grief it can compound and overwhelm you’
Sharon Jenkins
Marie Curie counsellor

The royal temperament: a hereditary trait?

The Queen replied: “Less dressy? What do you think this is? I’m not changing anything. I’ve had enough dressing like this, thank you very much.” The BBC later had to apologise to the Queen after admitting it “misrepresented” her by implying she had stormed out of the photoshoot.

Another instance was cited in the 2002 documentary *HM the Queen: a Remarkable Life*. The narrator said: “In Windsor Great Park, the Queen was watching Philip doing some carriage driving. However, she is not amused when a crowd of nosy photographers gets in her way.” The footage showed the Queen gesturing to a crowd of photographers to disperse, shouting: “Do you mind!”

Nadeem Badshah

process involved keeping busy but stopping when needed, and the King’s duties in recent days may be in conflict with that. Buckingham Palace’s response to suggestions he was taking Thursday as “a day of reflection” had been to insist he was working hard.

The King’s spokesperson said: “What he is doing today [Thursday] is catching up with a lot of what he would have been doing in terms of state business, phone calls with governors general, contacts with heads of state.”

They stressed the King had been able to reflect in recent days, adding: “Anyone who could see him in Westminster Hall [on Wednesday] could see he was reflecting and mourning.” Indeed, many of his engagements have been church services or vigils which, while being broadcast on global TV networks, do offer some opportunity for reflection.

Asked directly how he was “bearing up”, his spokesperson replied: “People who have worked with the King know just how resilient and hard-working he is.”

Sir Nicholas Soames, Charles’s close friend, told the Guardian: “You have to get on with it. I am not talking about a stiff upper lip. [The King] is a man of great emotional intelligence and empathy. Of course he will be affected by it. But that fact the public demonstrations have been so effusive will help. I don’t worry about it.”

Soames, whose grandfather Winston Churchill also had a state funeral in 1965, when Soames was 16, said: “My mother was of the wartime generation. Her father had been a very old man for a very long time. I don’t remember [the public scrutiny] having any bad effect on her at all. In fact, I think she was touched by the public outpouring of grief at Churchill’s death.”

Jenkins said: “By avoiding the grief it can compound and overwhelm you,” adding, “the more people keep going and not get the rest they need there is a risk to their health”.

She said that, given he lost his father in April 2021, Charles was not now an orphan. She said that after he saw the Queen laid to rest in Windsor, close to his father “you have the risk that if [the Duke of Edinburgh’s] death isn’t processed properly, that can be re-triggering and intensify the grief”.

Marie Curie has a free support line for the bereaved on 0800 0902309



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

King Charles enjoys surge in support – but there's always a chance the tide will turn

Ben Quinn and Emine Sinmaz

It was days before another royal funeral – albeit a ceremonial one for Diana, Princess of Wales, 25 years ago – when the then prime minister Tony Blair realised the monarchy was facing an almost unprecedented existential threat.

“I was worried,” he has since said of a time when the royal family was perceived to be coldly indifferent to the public mood. One poll indicated that as many as one in four people were in favour of a republic.

As history records, the Queen in particular turned things round, and this week YouGov polling showed that King Charles, her once unpopular son and heir, was enjoying a surge in support for his accession – 63% of people said he would do a “good job”.

The organised side of Britain's Republican movement has decided to stay relatively quiet before the coronation, which is expected to be held next year, but those wishing to abolish the monarchy can take encouragement from the direction of polling, which has support for the institution at an all-time low.

While groups such as Republic plan to prepare the ground through marketing campaigns and say they have attracted thousands of new members in recent days, strategists emphasise their chance of success depends on the new king – whose tetchiness with pens on two occasions was in marked contrast to the poker-faced attitude of his mother.

“The figures showing a surge in support for him speaks to the strength of the institution, which clearly has a hold on people. There's a kind of

a rally round the flag effect which I think will endure,” said Gabriel Miland, a polling expert, a partner at Portland Communications and a former Downing Street adviser.

“Assuming his kingship proceeds smoothly, it's hard to see this country turning against the monarchy given that the only times that has happened is when things have gone badly for the monarch, like Victoria's retreat from public life after the death of Albert, the abdication crisis and the death of Diana.”

Prof John Curtice, the UK's pre-eminent political scientist, said the “broad headline” since the National Centre for Social Research (NCSR) began charting attitudes towards the monarchy in 1994 is that about two-thirds of the public say that it is either very or quite important for Britain to have a monarchy, while about 15% say either that it is not important at all or

‘Support does seem to vary in response to circumstance’

Prof John Curtice
Political scientist

that it should be abolished. But it is the variation within those figures that may potentially be crucial.

Despite fluctuations, such as after the death of Diana and a surge around the diamond jubilee, Curtice said that the NCSR's most recent survey found that the core group who believed the monarchy was “very or quite important” was down to 55%.

“Why is that? Probably, one, Prince Andrew, and, two, Harry and Meghan, there's been a wee bit of background noise,” he said. “The

crucial point is that while there is a certain sense of stability to support the monarchy, it does vary, and it does seem to vary in response to circumstance. So I think it's better to categorise it as a contingent support rather than unquestioning support.”

Among other surveyors of public attitudes and identity, Sunder Katwala, the founder of British Future, said that, beyond a rock solid core of support, the thinktank's polling found there were three areas the monarchy should worry about: Scotland, Britain's ethnic minorities and young people.

Fewer than half of people in Scotland said they support retaining the monarchy. Across Britain, only 40% of 18- to 24-year-olds backed it, while 37% of people from an ethnic minority did so.

Not that Republicans should assume the future generations will automatically carry with them hostility or indifference to the royals, said Katwala, who has previously “talked himself out” of being a republican.

“What republicans have been bad at, though they are getting a lot better, is tone of voice. [They have] to understand why people don't think of this as a slam-dunk issue just because it's about an accident of birth or seems unfair. If you can't understand that it's not so simple then what republicans are saying to people is that ‘you're all a bunch of propaganda-driven sheep’.

“So a softer voice really helps, and you could see gains if republicanism was allowed to come out and be a source of slightly disloyal opposition that would call for transparency on things like royal finances, one that was allowed to ask questions in parliament.”

A de facto referendum on the monarchy will continue in the form of the NCSR tracking data, he said.

Katwala added: “If you lose the public polling then everyone behaves differently and the media behaves differently, though what you don't get is a focus point on a moment [to challenge the institution].

“This certainly isn't the right moment because of grieving, but the coronation will have to be the moment when people get to say: ‘this is the alternative’.”



▲ A protester in London against the monarchy: about 15% polled think it is not important or should be abolished PHOTOGRAPH: ANTONIO OLMOS/THE GUARDIAN

Tuning out

How to make the most of the bank holiday (and avoid the coverage)

While millions in Britain and around the world will mark the Queen's funeral on Monday with solemnity, many others will want to take advantage of a rare bank holiday and swerve the historic event altogether.

But will that actually be possible? With most sports centres, public buildings, many high street shops, supermarkets and museums closing, Monday may feel much like the bank holidays of yore, with pretty much everything shut.

For those who would rather politely decline to take part in the mass observance of the Queen's funeral, here are some ideas.

Go for a long walk

Remember all those wholesome activities you resorted to during

the lockdowns? They are your friend. Alan Wares, the co-host of the Albion Roar podcast about Brighton football club, has decided to go for a long walk along the South Downs with his dog, Roxy.

“Nothing will be open for miles around, so we'll take the freebie option and make some friends with other people avoiding the funeral along the way,” he said.

Work

You may be freelance, or work in the NHS or an emergency service, or countless other jobs where you will not be getting a bank holiday. You may even work in news gathering. If so, solidarity.

Go to the pub

... but not any run by Greene King or the Fullers group, which have

said they'll be showing the funeral service. It's probably best to choose an establishment with no TV. Isobel Knight, a PR consultant, has done her homework: “Thankfully a local wine bar has come to the rescue. They're open from 1pm and don't have a TV – when I checked last night they promised it would be music only in the background.”

Bake a cake

Make sure you buy your ingredients before Monday, when many supermarkets will be shut.

The author and political analyst Saurav Dutt has decided to turn the activity into a political statement and is baking a union jack cake to represent the empire with the Koh-i-noor diamond set in the imperial crown. The cake is going to be divided between four friends – one

Indian household, one Pakistani, one Afghan, one Iranian – to represent “returning” the diamond to south Asia. “It's an interesting way to avoid the funeral,” he said.

Leave the country

It's dramatic but may be the only way to avoid any funeral coverage, and even then you may have to choose somewhere remote.

Graham Smith, the CEO of the campaign group Republic, will be driving across Sweden to the annual meeting of the Alliance of European Republican Movements.

“We felt this is not the moment to protest,” he said. “But there will be a series of events and protests, including for the investiture of the Prince of Wales and the coronation, for people to get involved in.”

Alexandra Topping

The uses of
pageantry
Images of
mourning
shape idea
of modern
monarchy



▼ *Camilla, the Queen Consort, at a thanksgiving service for the life of Elizabeth II in Edinburgh on Monday*
PHOTOGRAPH: MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES



◀ *A show of unity at Windsor Castle: from left, Kate, William, Harry and Meghan*
CHRIS JACKSON/ AFP/GETTY

▲ *Pallbearers with the coffin at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh last Sunday*
ALKIS KONSTANTINIDIS/ REUTERS

Jess Cartner-Morley

From marmalade sandwiches and beribboned beehives to black stilettos and military uniforms, national mourning and preparations for a state funeral have transformed the British landscape.

This week's extraordinary images - of polished pageantry juxtaposed with piles of stuffed corgis, of 14-hour queues and the first sightings of a dramatically reshuffled royal family - reflect both a nation's grief for the late Queen Elizabeth II, and the complexities of how monarchy fits into modern Britain.

The lions of the Royal Standard flag - a trio of gold ones for England, the lion rampant for Scotland - have blazed proudly from the royal coffin on its long journey from

Balmoral to Westminster Hall. And its supporting cast of scarlet Beefeaters and purple-robed archbishops, of kilned Scottish pallbearers and the plumed gold helmets of the Household Cavalry, have painted a picture of British tradition in full and sombre voice.

The pageantry of this week has been a striking reminder that a monarchy which many Britons had come to conflate with the character of one particular woman is, in fact, an ornate, complex and expensive operation which transcends any personal character.

The idea of the monarchy as an institution apart from the individual has historically served as a source of stability, but with the modern-day preference for heart-on-sleeve public shows of affection, it can also be an achilles heel.

Television pictures of William and Harry walking in stoic procession behind a casket whose white floral tribute bore a card addressed to "Mummy" became

▶ *The Princess of Wales in a car driven behind the Queen's coffin during a procession from Buckingham Palace to the Palace of Westminster, in London on Wednesday*
PHOTOGRAPH: MARCO BERTORELLO/AFP/ GETTY IMAGES



a defining image of Princess Diana's death. That image was a visual metonym for what the public perceived as the chilly dysfunction of the royal family.

Twenty-five years later, the sight of the Queen sitting alone at Prince Philip's funeral became a symbol not only of her personal grief but of the shared national trauma of lockdown - and evidence of the royals having grasped the powerful nature of the deeply personal image as well as the pageantry.

Charles became King the moment his mother died, but the bonds of affection and respect from the British public are not automatically passed from mother to son, and the reaffirming of this relationship is one purpose of this week's pageantry.

A walkabout by the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, on a joint visit to view tributes at Windsor Castle, gave the watching world a good news story, and the royal family will hope it can ensure that grief for the Queen is channelled into support and affection for the newly reconfigured royal family.

As 15- and 12-year-old brothers walking behind their mother's coffin, they once shared a heavy burden of private tragedy and public duty. If they are seen to present a united front this week, that will appear a fitting tribute to a beloved matriarch - and the first step toward showing the era of King Charles III in a positive light.



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

Peter Walker
Political correspondent

The notion of the royal family as symbols of duty or sacrifice to the nation is “a lie” and is at the centre of a deeply unequal UK, a senior Labour MP has argued, breaching Keir Starmer’s order to his party to stay silent before the Queen’s funeral.

Clive Lewis, the Norwich South MP and former shadow cabinet minister, said the arrest of anti-monarchy protesters and the condemnation of



▲ Lewis’s comments come despite an order from Keir Starmer to stay quiet

others who dissented showed that the royal succession “is as much about coercion as consent”.

In an article for the Guardian that is likely to infuriate Starmer’s office, Lewis said his initial response to the idea of people queuing for hours to file past the Queen’s coffin was “bemusement followed by a touch of despair”. Seeking to extrapolate lessons from the phenomenon for those, like him, who seek a transition to a republic, Lewis argued that media interviews with the mourners often showed a key motivation was

the “need to feel part of something more than themselves”.

The “fundamental truth” about the monarchy, he argued, was its role as a national distraction. “It is a spectacle exalted for exemplifying virtues that should be typical in public life and public behaviour. Casting such behaviour as exceptional allows the likes of Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and the economic elites they represent to break and exploit the rules for their own benefit and that of their very narrow class interest – of which the monarchy is an integral part.”

London railway stations will stay open all night in readiness for crowds

Gwyn Topham
Transport correspondent

Mainline railway stations will stay open in London throughout the night in coming days as transport authorities prepare for the huge number of people expected to pay their respects at Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral.

Restaurants and toilet facilities will stay open, with special “welfare trains” at platforms to seat vulnerable passengers who may have long waits to travel.

The limited additional night trains promised by operators for the lying in state and funeral would mainly serve destinations within the M25, Network Rail confirmed.

Most who travel into the capital should consider walking from mainline stations, Transport for London (TfL) has advised, as it warned of “unprecedented demand” during one of the biggest events the capital has witnessed.

TfL said customers should plan ahead and check on the day if crowds have forced station closures, with areas around Westminster, Waterloo, Trafalgar Square and the South Bank likely to be very busy.

Network Rail and TfL urged people attending the funeral event to return home slowly and stay to eat in the city if possible, to avoid the huge rush expected for many services.

The tube and Elizabeth line will run for an extra hour on Monday night to help people disperse from the capital, and all transport services will run to weekday levels rather than the usual bank holiday reduced operations. Underground stations nearest to the procession and ceremonial areas, including Westminster, St James’s Park and Hyde Park Corner,

will be closed on Monday morning and Green Park will be exit only.

Road closures during the lying in state and in preparation for Monday will affect bus services throughout the weekend, and diversions and disruptions are expected to last for several days as barriers and other infrastructure installed for the funeral are removed.

Services will mark the two-minute silence on Monday with announcements beforehand but will continue to run.

The Network Rail chairman, Sir Peter Hendy, said: “We are doing all we can to help people travel to commemorative events, pay their respects and celebrate the extraordinary life of Her Majesty the Queen.”

“The railway is going to be extremely busy on Monday, particularly on routes into London. This is the biggest public transport operation since the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games and we’re working closely with all train operators to run extra trains through the day and into the night.”

“To help us provide the best possible experience and avoid lengthy queues at stations we’re asking people not to rush home after the funeral and the processions but to take their time and experience London on this memorable day.”

The TfL commissioner, Andy Byford, said his teams were “working around the clock” to ensure Londoners and visitors could safely use the transport network. He said: “It is going to be extremely busy in London on Monday and there may be short-notice changes and queues to enter stations as a result of the large number of people travelling.”

“We will be running a safe, reliable and frequent service to help ensure that everyone can travel home safely after paying their respects.”

He added: “It’s an emerging picture, but it’s been as busy as we expected and to date the plan has gone well. We’ve deployed an army of volunteers, and we’re confident we’ve got the capacity and the expertise.”

Victoria coach station, the main terminus for intercity coaches, will be closed on Monday, with services operating from further out in London.



▲ Extra trains will be laid on for the day of Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral



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◀ *Dover's cliffs represent a Britain seen, post-Brexit, as more insular by many observing events from Europe*

PHOTOGRAPH: RENATO GRANIERI/ALAMY

challenge and still full of resilience, remains in European minds.

Elizabeth II was the epitome of a sense of duty and service that is greatly admired abroad. The rituals and ceremonies put in place during this time of transition, broadcast and followed all over the world, are ultimately the truest expression of the United Kingdom's national identity. It is when we witness them play out that this country, sometimes so hard to explain, is easily recognised.

Antonello Guerrera
UK correspondent,
La Repubblica, Italy

Does Queen Elizabeth's funeral symbolise a rueful Purcell-like march for the United Kingdom itself? Will this, as Julian Barnes once wrote, be "the land of embarrassment and breakfast"?

Despite the colossal challenges ahead, I don't think so. Like King Charles III, George VI was also considered unfit for his "job", before confounding his critics. Secondly, as Robert Harris recently told me: "Keeping the head of state separate from politics is a precious guarantee of liberty. Monarchs may be unpopular sometimes, but the institution will survive."

The monarchy is one of the UK's most successful and beloved brands. Which other monarch's death could command 20 pages of coverage in the newspapers of foreign countries? Which other monarchy has been the subject of a hit Netflix series? I work for an Italian newspaper whose name means The Republic, but our articles on the British monarchy are routinely among the most read.

What is worrying is the polarisation of British politics. Northern Ireland will be a dangerous mess if the UK fails to reach a settlement with the EU and sell it to politicians. Scotland's independence is a real possibility, but the chaotic outcome of Brexit for Northern Ireland might be a strong deterrent in a potential new Scottish independence referendum. Liz Truss's draconian rhetoric and the hard right of the Conservative party will be even more divisive than Boris Johnson. Despite being led by a decent politician like Keir Starmer, the Labour party seems devoid of any real vision. As for Brexit, Britain has lost access to the world's largest (and its geographically closest) single market.

Winston Churchill said: "The maxim of the British people is 'business as usual'." For sure, these are extraordinary times that are going to change Britain for ever. Queen Elizabeth's death also leaves a hiatus internationally. A more insular British attitude has been obvious in recent years and I know that many young Italians feel less connection with their favourite European country post-Brexit. The risk is always that the UK ends up not as Global Britain but Little England. This, too, would have been a nightmare for the Queen.

The view from Europe 'When the mourning ends, reality will hit hard'

The royal drama fascinates their own readers, but for the UK-based correspondents of European newspapers the pomp seems to mask profound problems ahead

Stefanie Bolzen UK and Ireland correspondent, *Die Welt*, Germany

The days we are living through mark a new beginning. Only time will tell what the post-Elizabethan era will bring. For the moment, what it does feel like is a juggernaut of one too many challenges coming at the same time, a surreal wave. The aftermath of the pandemic, which has left the UK with a lot of scars; Brexit finally being felt in real life, whether on the M2 towards Dover, in my local Sainsbury's, or in the port of Larne; Russia's war on Ukraine; a fourth prime minister in six years. And now the death of Elizabeth II, who seemed immortal.

Reporting on the UK as a foreigner often makes it easier to take a step back, to see the big picture. Since last Thursday, though, this has become a challenge. The 24/7 coverage of the Queen's death is all-consuming with layers of events, history and traditions to process. It would not be fair to suggest that these layers are somehow serving to

sugarcoat the crisis in this country. What I do notice is that the foreign media cover this long period of ceremonial mourning with less servility. Hardly any British media, for example, dared comment on King Charles III's rude gesture of impatience in the proclamation.

Many Britons could not care less that the Queen is gone. But millions do mourn her death and feel a personal loss. To many of them, the royal family represents a kind of comfort, of glamour and gossip, a way to forget about one's mundane life. Possibly this acute feeling of loss is made even more painful because so many people fear the immediate future. Wasn't Brexit supposed to give the British back control? Life for many now seems even more beyond their control.

What I am sure of is that the moment these days of national mourning are over, reality will hit, and it will hit hard. Remember the Monday morning after the splendid platinum jubilee? Graham Brady stood on College Green and announced a vote of confidence against Boris Johnson. Politics in this country is ruthless.

Rafa de Miguel UK and Ireland correspondent, *El País*, Spain

Two basic tasks have long faced any new foreign correspondent arriving in the UK: the first, to catch

a glimpse of the English essence, to read Orwell's famous essay *The Lion and the Unicorn*; the second to start documenting the life, role and achievements of Elizabeth II, the only public figure able constantly to attract the attention of your readers.

Orwell wrote: "England is the most class-ridden country under the sun. It is a land of snobbery and privilege, ruled largely by the old and silly. But in any calculation about it one has got to take into account its emotional unity, the tendency of nearly all its inhabitants to act together in moments of supreme crisis."

Yes, Brexit has shown the UK's ugliest side to the continent. The wounds of that prolonged row will take years to heal, if ever. Yes, that whole political process has poisoned the public debate and created divisions in society hard to understand in a country that feels culturally quite different from southern Europe.

Charles III inherits a land with deep territorial tensions - Scotland wants to give the vote on independence another try, and Northern Ireland's unionists fear their worst nightmare, the unification of Ireland, is a fait accompli; the Johnson years have deepened public mistrust of politics; the pandemic has

revealed, in all its cruelty, the scarcity of resources invested in such a once sacred institution as the NHS. And a new recession, heralded by galloping inflation - the real thief in the night for working-class people - has caught the government off guard, with a new prime minister who has everything to prove.

And yes, the UK's turmoil offers European readers a mischievous *schadenfreude*. But only up to a point. A certain idea of Britain, as an old parliamentary democracy, flexible enough to cope with any

'This acute feeling of loss is made even more painful because so many people fear the future'

Stefanie Bolzen
UK correspondent, *Die Welt*



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Michael Jordan's 'Last Dance' jersey sells for a record \$10m at auction

Sean Ingle

During his stellar basketball career, Michael Jordan was famous for his gravity-defying dunks and redefining the bounds of what seemed possible. Now a jersey won by the former Chicago Bulls player in the 1998 NBA finals – a period chronicled in the hit Netflix documentary *The Last Dance* – has also sent jaws dropping by attracting a record price of \$10.09m (£8.87m) at auction.

The sum, more than double the initial estimates, set a new auction record for a piece of game-worn sporting memorabilia, according to Sotheby's. The previous highest was the \$9.28m paid for the shirt worn by Diego Maradona during the "Hand of God" game between Argentina and England at the 1986 World Cup.

Jordan wore the jersey in game 1, scoring 33 points in a loss against the Utah Jazz. However, he then led the Bulls to a brilliant comeback as he gained his sixth NBA title ring. Sotheby's said it was one of only two of Jordan's jerseys worn in a NBA finals game to appear at auction and billed it as "one of the most significant items" from Jordan's career.

"The season itself is his 'magnum opus' as an athlete, and a testament to



▲ Maradona's 'Hand of God' shirt previously held the record at \$9.28m

him as a champion and competitor," added Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectables. "Finals jerseys from Jordan are remarkably scant and the [1998] finals are arguably the most coveted of them all."

Wachter said there had been considerable interest in the jersey. "In the weeks since we announced the auction, there's been palpable excitement from not only sports fans, but collectors who are eager to own a rarified piece of history," he added.

The sale of Jordan's jersey is another example of the remarkable boom in memorabilia in recent years.

In June 2019 a jersey worn by the baseball player Babe Ruth between 1928 and 1930 sold for \$5.6m at an auction in New York, making it the most expensive piece of sporting memorabilia ever sold.

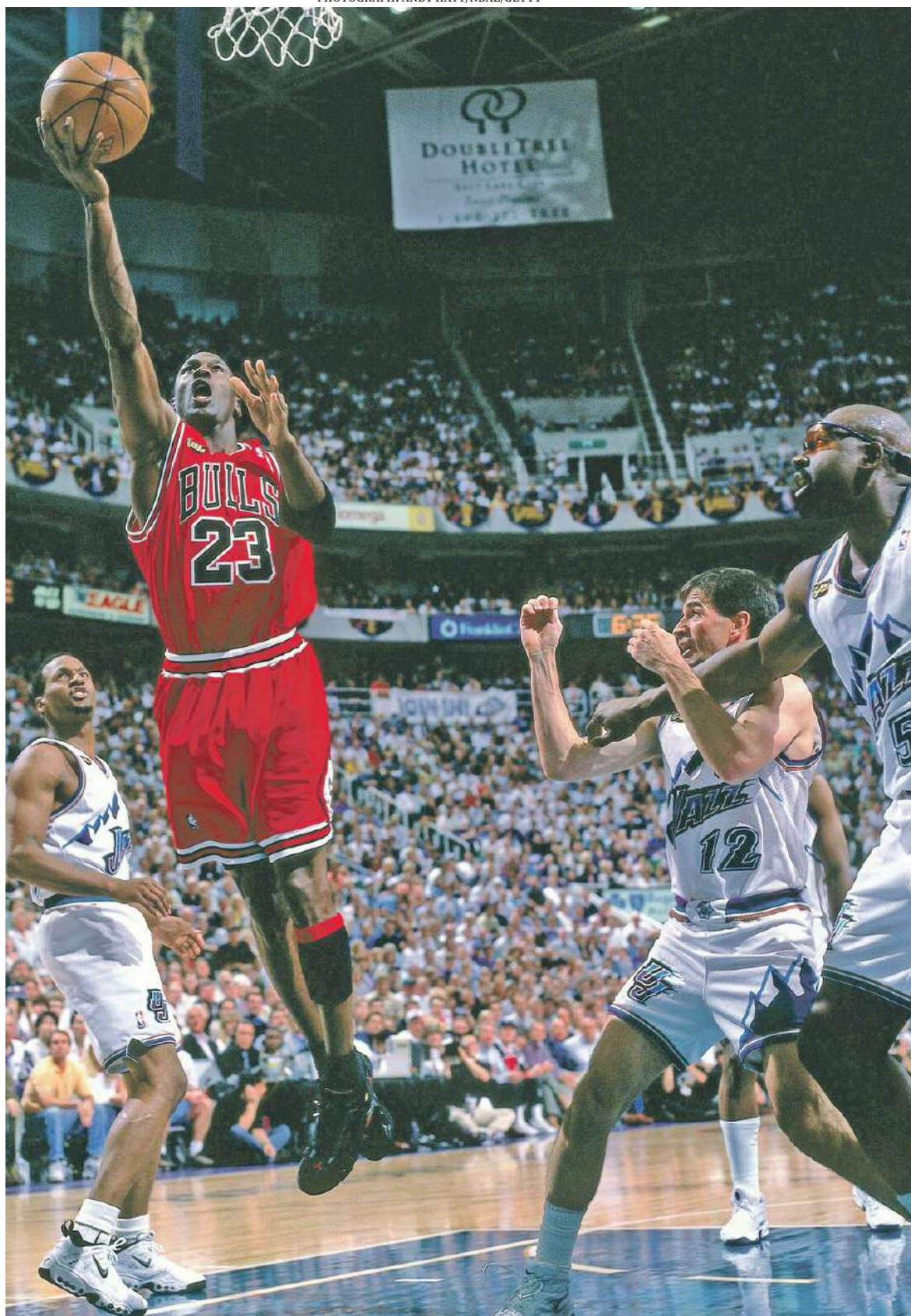
However, six months later that record was smashed when the original copy of Pierre de Coubertin's 1892 speech, outlining his idealist vision for a revival of the ancient Olympic Games, sold for an astounding \$8,806,500 – beating the high estimate by nearly \$8m.

Baseball cards have also proved extraordinarily popular, with the Honus Wagner T206, portraying the Pittsburgh Pirates player nicknamed "the Flying Dutchman", one of the most collectable. Fewer than 100 are said to be in circulation, with the latest selling for \$7.25m last month. The overall record for sporting memorabilia still stands at the \$12.6m paid for a Mickey Mantle baseball card.

There are still relative bargains to be had for those with deep pockets. This week, Sotheby's sold a signed Roger Federer racket used at the 2011 French Open for a relatively modest \$50,400, while a signed pair of Serena Williams' trainers went for \$5,292.

▼ The Chicago Bulls' No 23, Michael Jordan, in action at the 1998 NBA finals, in which he wore the jersey

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY HAYT/NBAE/GETTY



Ai Weiwei says mother warns him against return to China

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

The Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei has said his desire to be reunited with his mother, 90, could see him go back to China but that she has implored him not to return from his British exile.

The sculptor and activist, who divides his time between Cambridge and Portugal, spent 81 days in custody in Beijing in 2011 before fleeing his home country four years later on the return of his passport.

Asked by Chris Patten, the former

governor of Hong Kong, at an event in London, whether people who left Hong Kong after the recent political crackdown should return, Ai, 65, explained his own daily dilemma.

"I can't answer for others and I think every individual has to make up their minds according to their circumstances," he said. "My situation is I have a mum who is 90 years old and she calls me all the time on the phone. She thinks I am her little boy ...

"Always the last sentence she would say: 'Do not come back'. So, it's very hard to answer a question like that. I feel perfectly reasonable to go back because my mum is

my only parent there. [But] if anything should stop me from going back it is my mum. Of course there is strong potential that I can never come home or end up somewhere not very desirable".

Ai's father was the poet Ai Qing, a member of the Chinese Communist party and intimate of Mao Zedong, who was sent to a labour camp during a purge when Ai Weiwei was a year old. The family was exiled to Xinjiang and only returned to Beijing in 1976 following Mao's death.

The artist's first major clash with the Chinese Communist party came when he orchestrated the gathering and publication of the names of 4,851 children who died in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. Their deaths were said to be a direct consequence of corruption and the unsafe construction of school buildings.

Ai's arrest on charges of tax evasion in April 2011 at Beijing airport where he was due to get on a flight to Hong Kong led to an outpouring of international condemnation. His mother, Gao Ying, was prominent in demanding her son's release, at one point describing Chinese officials as "creepy, crooked, evil" despite the risk to her own liberty.



▲ The Chinese dissident Ai Weiwei was detained in Beijing 11 years ago

Ai, who was speaking to Patten at Asia House, central London, where he was one of five recipients of a Praemium Imperiale award, said he was not clear whether his struggles for freedom were "worth it".

He said: "I remember a security bureau person who interrogated me before I got released. He said: 'You are always asking for freedom. For that freedom, you might end up in jail spending years just because you are asking for that.' He is very honest and he has no answer. Just says think about it, if it is worth it. I cannot say it is worth it."

Ai is curating an exhibition of art by prisoners in the UK, which will open at the Southbank Centre on 27 October. Ai said the works from people serving time were "truly impressive". He added: "I have seen many master works."

Rail strikes to resume in October with Tory conference disrupted

Gwyn Topham

Transport correspondent

Disruption to rail services across Britain will resume after the Queen's funeral, with drivers at 12 train operating companies staging coordinated strikes at the start of October.

Operators are understood to have been notified of two 24-hour strikes on 1 and 5 October, which would affect services across the country and bring rail chaos at the beginning and end of the Conservative party conference in Birmingham.

The Aslef union declined to comment and said it would not be making



any statement until Tuesday out of respect for Queen Elizabeth II.

Strikes that had been scheduled by Aslef and RMT for last Thursday and today were called off by the rail unions after the news of the death of the monarch.

However, it was expected that further action would resume in a longstanding dispute over pay and working conditions on the railway, with train operators unable or unwilling to meet demands for a pay rise in line with the cost of living.

▼ Two 24-hour walkouts, said to be planned for 1 and 5 October, will affect services across the country

PHOTOGRAPH: BAV MEDIA

conference, the first under Liz Truss's leadership.

The other firms at which drivers will strike are Greater Anglia, Great Western Railway, Hull Trains, LNER, London Overground, Northern, Southeastern and TransPennine Express.

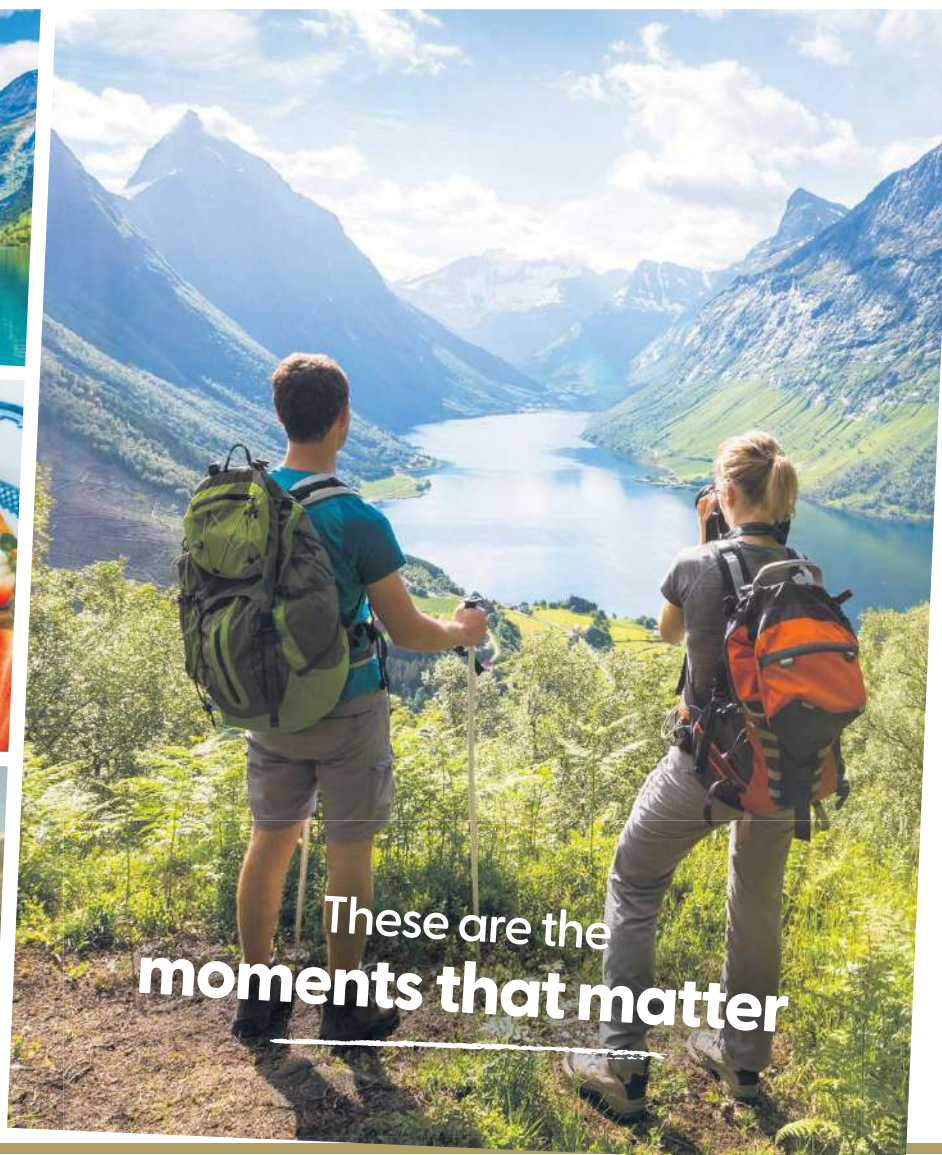
New dates have not yet been confirmed for the other strikes that were postponed after the news of the Queen's death.

They include action that had been announced at the start of this month by RMT, which had said about 40,000 of its members working at Network Rail and 14 train operating companies would strike on Thursday and today. The TSSA rail union had also cancelled planned industrial action for 26 September, and said it would be "respecting the period of public mourning".

Royal Mail workers had been due to stage the second day of a 48-hour strike on Friday last week in a dispute over pay and conditions.

The strikes follow a summer of industrial action across the country, not only on rail but over a number of sectors, including barristers, BT workers, Post Office staff and some employees of bus and bin operators.

This week the Unite union announced that a second eight-day strike at Felixstowe, the UK's largest container port, would begin on 27 September.



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▼ A protest in London over the death of the 24-year-old. More will take place today across the UK

PHOTOGRAPH: SOPHIA EVANS/THE GUARDIAN



IOPC timeline

The investigation into the police shooting of an unarmed black man will examine whether race was a factor but will not conclude until next year, a watchdog has said.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct said it was in discussions with prosecutors about the investigation and expected it would commission expert analysis to work out what happened at the scene in south London before Chris Kaba, 24, was shot once in the head. Both Kaba's family and the Metropolitan police firearms officer under investigation for possible homicide offences face a long wait.

Once the IOPC concludes its investigation there may be a further wait while prosecutors decide whether or not to bring charges. If no charges follow, there is expected to be an inquiry, which would also act as the inquest.

The IOPC will also have to decide whether it believes disciplinary charges should be brought.

Daniel Machover, solicitor for the Kaba family, said "Six to nine months for this investigation is unacceptably long and lacks urgency and indicates insufficient resources to do the job; meanwhile the IOPC continue to withhold basic information from the family." **Vikram Dodd**

'Lack of urgency' Chris Kaba cousin says watchdog is taking too long

Tobi Thomas

He was the life of the party, you know, everywhere he went he didn't shy away from showing the people he cared for that he cared for them," says Jefferson Bosela, describing his cousin Chris Kaba. "He was a big brother, he was a fiancé, he was a dad-to-be, so he had so much going for him, which makes this tragedy worse."

On 5 September, Kaba was driving through Streatham, south London, when the vehicle was flagged by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and pursued and intercepted by two Metropolitan police cars.

After performing a "controlled stop", the police vehicles boxed in Kaba in Streatham Hill. A single

bullet was then shot through the windscreen on the driver's side, hitting Kaba in the head. He died two hours later in hospital. It was later confirmed that Kaba was unarmed, and that the car he was driving was not registered to him.

Although the officer involved was initially treated as a witness, the police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, launched a homicide investigation, and the same officer was suspended.

Bosela, who has become the family's spokesperson and at the helm of the Justice for Chris Kaba campaign, has maintained that the response to the incident from the IOPC has lacked urgency, citing both the watchdog's response to the family's questions, but also that its six- to nine-month timeline for the homicide investigation to take place is too long.

"I don't think the IOPC have been necessarily helpful," Bosela



says. "We've been asking them very simple questions from the outset, such as whether the car was registered to Chris, and if the car was searched, whether a weapon was in the car. And we didn't find out the answer to these questions until later."

"We've only met twice face to face ... but other than that it's been over the phone and few and far between," Bosela adds. "We're not really getting regular updates, although they are saying that they are. A lot of the questions that we're asking are going unanswered and when they do answer them, the answers are pretty vague. It hasn't been the best experience for me or my family in regards to our relationship with the IOPC."

On Wednesday, the IOPC confirmed that Kaba's family would be able to watch police video from the night he was killed. Although the watchdog has denied that it buckled under pressure, Bosela

"There have been some officers, when we've gone to protest, who are just as angry as we are and want answers"

does not believe this to be the case. "I think that if there wasn't any pressure, they would be taking their time," Bosela says.

Deborah Coles, the executive director of the charity Inquest, which has been supporting Kaba's family, said: "I think the most important thing is that this needs to be a prompt and effective investigation. We cannot tolerate the excessive delays that have been so familiar in all the other investigations that other families have gone through."

Bosela recently resigned from

his role as a head of year at a London secondary school to focus on the campaign.

Today, protests will take place across the country, including London, Manchester and Cardiff, as part of a national day of action. It follows protests last week which included support from the musician Stormzy and the Labour MPs Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Harriet Harman.

Bosela says that although the family's contact with the Met had been limited, some officers had expressed their sympathies to them. "There have been some officers, when we've gone to protest, who have said that they are just as angry as we are, and that they want answers and a swift investigation as well," Bosela says. "So that has been to a certain extent reassuring when we've heard certain police officers say that."

There are still many questions unanswered about what happened on the night Kaba was killed. The family have said they want to know whether the Met knew it was Kaba driving the car. They want the suspended officer to be interviewed under caution as soon as possible, and they want a charging decision within weeks.

But despite the grief the family are experiencing, Bosela says: "The public support has lifted my spirits. It has made us as a family feel appreciated, valued and loved. What more could we ask for? It's been so surreal. As much as this has been a tragic story, the togetherness and the unity and the solidarity which has been shown to the family has been beautiful."

Reel lives Spielberg's latest work leads boom in films about films

Andrew Pulver

Write what you know" is one of the hoariest adages around, and for film-makers it means making movies about a subject of endless fascination and first-hand knowledge for them: the movies. Audiences have never been quite as interested in the internal machinations of film-making as the creators themselves, but some of these projects have occasionally broken through to awards triumphs and even box-office success: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, La La Land, The Artist and, further back, Robert Altman's The Player were all proud members of the movies-about-movies subgenre.

Now the subject has sparked the interest of a trio of A-list film-

makers, who each have a major film emerging from the autumn festival circuit with serious Oscar aspirations. The Fabelmans, directed by Steven Spielberg, and Empire of Light, by Sam Mendes, are both strong contenders for the Toronto film festival's People's Choice award, announced today and which has long been a key indicator of Oscar success. Babylon, from La La Land's director, Damien

Chazelle, is due for a high-profile release around the new year.

The Fabelmans, the story of a Jewish boy growing up in the midwest in the 1960s, has been hailed as Spielberg's most autobiographical film, and he co-wrote it with the Angels in America playwright Tony Kushner. It stars Michelle Williams and Paul Dano as Mitzi and Burt Fabelman - characters inspired by Spielberg's



◀ Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*, set in the 60s, is considered the most autobiographical film he has made

parents, Leah and Arnold - and Gabriel LaBelle as their son Sammy, who has to deal with their marriage breakdown and his burgeoning love of the movies. At its premiere in Toronto, Spielberg said that he was motivated by the spectre of Covid to get the film under way: "As things got worse and worse, I felt that if I was going to leave anything behind ... the thing that I really need to resolve and unpack [was] about my mom [and] my dad."

Empire of Light tells another "love letter to the movies" story, but transferred to a rundown Margate, Kent, during the recession-hit 1980s. Written and directed by Mendes, it stars Olivia Colman as a cinema manager who bonds with a new employee, played by Micheal Ward. It tackles the decade's attitudes towards race and mental illness.

Having briefly worked at a cinema in Oxford, Mendes told Deadline that his first solo script was equally inspired by his time working at the Donmar Warehouse, London. "My experience of the strange dysfunctional families that grow up around these places [is] drawn from my experiences in the theatre ... I liked the little hubs where people would meet ... the stage management room, the green room and, for me in this movie, it's the locker room."



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▼ **Brad Pitt plays Jack Conrad and Diego Calva is Manny Torres in Damien Chazelle's *Babylon***
PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTT GARFIELD/PARAMOUNT



Both films, which involve lengthy scenes set inside cinemas, arrive as streaming and home entertainment appears to dominate the market.

Anna Smith, a film critic and host of the *Girls on Film* podcast, suggests that nostalgia for celluloid could be playing a part. “It may be a coincidence that we are seeing a rash of more serious, heavyweight awards contenders exploring these subjects – or it may be that both film-makers and audiences are nostalgic for the pre-streaming age,” she said. “And of course period films about the movies allow for ample amounts of beauty and glamour – costume designers can have a field day.”

The latter is true for *Babylon* which is set in 1920s Hollywood during the transition from silent films to “talkies”, at a time when the industry was considered a den of hedonism and licentiousness.

Babylon stars Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie and Diego Calva, and follows Calva, playing a young Mexican-American actor, as he tries to make it in Hollywood. The first footage of the unfinished film was shown at Toronto, revealing scenes of copious drug-taking, wild parties and huge-scale film-making. Chazelle said that *Babylon* “was about capturing the spirit of that time, which I’d say was a lot more



▲ **Olivia Colman attends *Empire of Light*'s premiere, directed by Sam Mendes, at the Toronto film festival**

wild west ... excess, more drugs, more extreme living on all ends of the spectrum.”

Whether or not audiences will take to these films remains to be seen: none have been tested at the box office. Smith said: “When they are done well, films about films can fascinate audiences – and even be ripe for self-aware comedy, from *The Artist* to *Hail, Caesar!* and even the recent *Downton Abbey: A New Era*. They seem to be most successful when in an accessible, reasonably light-hearted genre – perhaps we like the idea of Hollywood being able to laugh at itself.”

However, more serious-minded elements of these films may act as an awards-season magnet, as the race for craft guilds, Baftas and Oscars votes starts to hot up.

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Judgment week

Testing schedule for new PM at home and abroad

Pippa Crerar

Political editor

Politics has been on hold since the Queen's death, overshadowing Liz Truss's first days in office, including her massive spending plans to bring down energy bills. The new prime minister has been forced to tear up the blueprint for her early weeks in No 10, pushing back a planned "policy blitz" and the final touches to her reshuffle. After the Queen's funeral normal business will resume, though Truss faces many challenges.

Tomorrow

Liz Truss will hold a series of informal meetings at Downing Street with a small number of world leaders in the UK to attend the funeral. No 10 has played down the significance of the talks, saying much of the discussion will involve reflecting on the Queen. Aides' refusal to brief reporters on the content of the talks because of the national mourning period has raised some eyebrows.

Truss will meet the US president, Joe Biden, for the first time since she took over. Relations have been strained by her threats to rip up post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland and Biden's refusal to strike a free-trade deal as a result. She will also meet the Irish prime minister, Micheál Martin, over the Northern Ireland protocol row. Truss has an audience with the King and will attend a heads of state reception in the evening.

Monday

The eyes of the world will be on the funeral at Westminster Abbey



▲ Some think Kwasi Kwarteng may have a budget surprise up his sleeve

where Truss will be reading a lesson during the service.

She will later travel to Windsor with other leaders of Commonwealth countries, including Canada's Justin Trudeau, Australia's Anthony Albanese and New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern, for the committal service.

Her leadership as prime minister since the Queen's death will set the tone for her entire premiership. If Truss is deemed to have got it right, rising to the occasion and judging the mood of the country correctly, it will bolster her in the hard months ahead. If she fails, her task over the winter as the economic emergency bites will become harder still.

Tuesday

After flying overnight from the UK, Truss will arrive in New York for the United Nations general assembly, her first foreign trip as prime minister. First impressions will count. She will hold a series of tough bilateral meetings with other leaders, with the French president, Emmanuel Macron, expected to be among them. After the Queen's death Macron tweeted about the "unbreakable" ties between France and the UK, promising

to strengthen their relationship further. Even so, Truss may have to explain comments made during the Tory party leadership race in which she said the "jury's out" over whether he was "friend or foe".

Wednesday

Truss will set out her vision for "global Britain" as she addresses the UN. Although she sometimes struggles with delivery, British officials privately believe it cannot be worse than Boris Johnson's ramblings last year about Kermit the Frog, when he told bemused diplomats the Muppet character was wrong when he sang It's Not Easy Bein' Green.

At home, the government is expected to confirm details of its energy bailout for struggling businesses, amid fears the scheme will be difficult to launch before November. It is a make-or-break moment for the government, with thousands of businesses on the brink.

Thursday

After landing back on British soil, Truss will head back to Downing Street to put the finishing touches to the mini-budget, just as the Bank of England puts up interest rates, with economists predicting they could rise to 2.25% - the highest level since 2008.

The health secretary, Thérèse Coffey, is expected to set out her four-step action plan to support the NHS this winter, focusing on ambulance delays, backlogs, the social care crisis, and doctor and dentist appointments.

NHS leaders warn that the health service is already on its knees. So if Truss fails to "deliver, deliver, deliver" she may lose whatever public goodwill she has left.

Friday

In the mini-budget, the government is expected to confirm plans to reverse the recent rise in national insurance, even though a reversal benefits higher earners the most, and to ditch a planned rise in corporation tax.

Truss's team has also spoken to business groups about changes to business rates and cuts to VAT to help with the energy crisis.

Senior MPs believe the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, could make a "rabbit out of the hat" announcement on the cost of living crisis, with speculation this could be around cutting income tax. Truss is determined to announce good news before the party conferences begin, but may quickly run into hard economic reality.



The heat is on Fears rise that Truss's bold energy gamble is still not enough

Heather Stewart

Back in March, just a few weeks into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Liz Truss's future chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, became one of the first cabinet ministers to acknowledge bluntly the costs of the conflict for consumers at home. "People are willing to endure hardships in solidarity with the heroic efforts that the people of Ukraine are making," he told MPs. "People understand this in this country, because we're a generous and giving country."

He could not have imagined that six months on, the true price of that solidarity would become so unthinkable - with average

household energy bills set to breach £3,500 - that from his new desk at the Treasury he would be spraying more than £100bn of taxpayers' money at the energy markets.

Truss's historic statement setting out an "energy price guarantee", pegging the bill for a typical household at £2,500, was all but forgotten just hours after she delivered it last week, as politics was silenced by national mourning.

But everything about the announcement was extraordinary. It is likely to be the costliest single policy Britain has ever seen while not at war: a drastic intervention in the energy markets, paid for by taxpayers, for which the Treasury has not yet suggested a price tag.

Yet is being carried out by an avowedly free-market prime minister, who spent much of the leadership campaign attacking



▲ The French president, Emmanuel Macron, is among world leaders with whom Liz Truss is expected to hold tough bilateral meetings during her visit to New York for the UN general assembly PHOTOGRAPH: EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY



“handouts”, and by a party that has spent much of the past decade trying to make sound public finances a key political dividing line with Labour.

And despite the measure’s cost, it will still not be enough to protect many households from a grim winter ahead.

“We need a reality check,” said Kate Bell, head of economics at the TUC. “Millions of households still face a huge cost of living crunch. Energy bills may have been capped, but they’re double what they were last year. And with food and other prices soaring too, workers across the economy are suffering a massive real-wage hit. Unless we get pay rising across the economy, working families will continue to face huge pressure on their finances.”

Analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) suggests that the move to cap the unit price of energy for households, together with the support announced by Rishi Sunak in May, still falls £800 short of covering the rise in living costs likely to be faced by the poorest consumers in the coming months.

According to JRF’s senior economist Rachelle Earwaker, these people were already struggling, months ago. “We know that back

in May, our analysis showed that around 7 million households on low incomes were already going without essentials; more than 5 million were in food insecurity – this was a problem before these energy hikes,” she said.

She added: “That £800 is only as low as it is because of the support package that Rishi Sunak put in in May. That gap is only going to

The low down

5m

Number of households already in food insecurity in May, calculated by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

£800

Shortfall poorest consumers could face from rising prices in estimates of the government’s energy bill support

\$1.14

Value of the pound yesterday, part of a downward trend it is feared could hinder efforts to control UK inflation

be a lot bigger after April, when that one-off support package runs out. So we’re really going to need additional support for those on the lowest incomes.”

Kwarteng has given no estimate of the costs of the measure, or of separate, ill-defined plans to shield businesses and public bodies from the increase in bills – and Treasury insiders suggest even in his financial statement next week he may only do so for its early months.

They stress the vagaries of global gas markets – and the government’s hopes of striking long-term deals with some producers to help smooth prices.

Kwarteng, a veteran of a string of battles with the penny-pinching Treasury when he was business secretary, has told his officials to focus relentlessly on growth, not the size of the deficit.

His insouciance about the public finances is surprising coming from the party of George Osborne, who took a very different stance in relation to the deficit in the wake of the 2007-2008 financial crisis. Osborne consistently said financial markets could lose confidence in the government’s ability to meet its obligations, driving up the cost of borrowing costs and prompting a Greece-style debt crisis.



◀ *Liz Truss at yesterday’s service for the Queen in Cardiff as questions mount about the justification for her taxpayer-funded policy*

PHOTOGRAPH: JACOB KING/PA MEDIA

▲ *Colne, Lancashire, one area where poorer households could still struggle after help with bills*

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/THE GUARDIAN

Labour arguably acquiesced in that framing of the UK’s economic travails. When Ed Miliband missed out a section of his 2014 conference speech mentioning his party’s plans for tackling the deficit, Unite’s general secretary, Len McCluskey, called it a “glaring omission”.

The economist Jonathan Portes, of the thinktank UK in a Changing Europe, argued that Osborne’s austerity was mistaken in 2010; but that didn’t mean Kwarteng’s stance was a good idea now.

According to Portes, there is a good case for funding much of the energy package through borrowing, but when combined with Truss’s costly tax cut plans, and a Treasury with no clear plan for “fixing the roof”, as Osborne called it, there is a risk of alarming financial markets.

“We’ve got inflation and interest rates going up. This is the opposite situation, and it’s not the situation where you would ideally want to be borrowing much more, and certainly not promising to carry on doing so for the foreseeable future.”

He played down the risk of a full-blown market panic but said: “There is a risk that you have continued downward pressure on the pound, and continued upward pressure on long-term interest rates; pressure on the pound makes inflation worse; the Bank of England has to raise interest rates to keep the pound stable – and all of that just makes things worse.”

Such fears have been exacerbated by sterling’s weak performance in recent weeks, hitting its lowest level against the dollar since 1985 yesterday, below \$1.14, and losing ground against the euro in recent weeks, too.

Even without a sterling crisis, many economists expect the Bank of England to keep interest rates higher, for longer, as a result of the energy package, which will bring down headline inflation in the shortterm, but could also boost demand in the economy.

Whatever the City’s verdict, Truss will be hoping that by getting the big bazooka out to tackle the

crisis, she can then take credit from consumers, for acting decisively.

Sunak saw his popularity with the public soar after announcing the radical furlough scheme to protect jobs during the Covid lockdowns – like Truss’s energy cap, a policy that went against the grain of Sunak’s free-market politics.

James Johnson, of the pollsters JL Partners, suggests Truss may get a fillip in the polls, once the policy receives more public attention when the period of mourning for the Queen comes to an end.

“We’re not going to see a sudden 10-point boost overnight any more because of events – and I actually think we might have done, if it hadn’t been for what happened – but I do think we’re going to see this have an impact on people’s views of her.”

Labour has argued that more of the package should have been paid for with a windfall tax on energy firms, which have generated bumper profits as global prices have surged. Sunak had already imposed a £5bn windfall tax, delicately calling it a “temporary, targeted energy profits levy” to avoid appearing to U-turn; but Labour argued this should be widened dramatically. Truss rejected that, claiming it would “undermine the national interest”, by discouraging investment.

One constituency that certainly does not like Truss’s price cap is the free-market thinktanks whose ideas she keenly espouses in other policy areas. The Adam Smith Institute complained that the approach could lead to blackouts, by blunting consumers’ incentives to cut back on energy use, and “subsidises affluent households which use more energy”.

Free-market ideologues will be more cheered by Kwarteng’s fiscal statement next week. It will include Truss’s promised tax cuts – most of the benefits of which go to higher earners – as well as more detail on changes the new government hopes will supercharge growth.

Yet even if Truss’s bold economic changes bear fruit, they will take many months, even years, to do so. Meanwhile, both hard-pressed voters and jittery financial markets are more likely to judge the new regime on how well her £100bn-plus price cap helps the battered UK economy to weather the rocky months ahead.

Fox's link to PR firm raises questions over bid for watchdog job

Rajeev Syal

A former defence secretary seeking election to parliament's foreign policy watchdog is facing questions over his suitability for the role after receiving payments from a PR firm which has worked for governments with poor human rights records.

Liam Fox is standing to become the chair of the foreign affairs select committee, which scrutinises Foreign Office ministers and officials over key policies. According to parliamentary records, he has been paid £20,000 since August 2021 to provide advice on business and international politics to WorldPR, a firm based in the tax haven of Panama City.

Clients of the firm, according to its website, have included "multiple Kazakhstan government departments and agencies since 2004". According to Human Rights Watch, free speech in Kazakhstan is suppressed, trade unionists are harassed and impunity for torture persists.

WorldPR has worked with government agencies in Azerbaijan including the state-owned oil company to "communicate its successes in multiple fields". According to Amnesty International, persecution of government critics, gender-based violence and torture remains widespread across the country.

Other WorldPR clients mentioned on the firm's website include Imran

Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan; the family of the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet; Morgan Tsvangirai, the late opposition leader in Zimbabwe; and the former Libyan government, in order to campaign against the prosecution of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, who was convicted of 270 counts of murder in connection with the Lockerbie bombings.

A spokesperson for Fox said he has never worked for Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan or the other former clients, having only joined the firm in 2021. He also disputed whether Panama is a tax haven, saying it is closely aligned to the top-level OECD standards.

There is no suggestion that Fox has broken any rules. But Sir Alistair Graham, the former chair of the committee for standards in public life, questioned whether Fox would be a suitable new chair of the committee. "I would have serious doubts given his current declarations as to whether he is a suitable person. If he offered to give up that particular paid employment then he can be judged on his genuine merits. But if in fact there is going to be potential conflicts of interest on the issues examined by the select committee and there are question marks about his genuine independence of approach," he said.

Fox, who was defence secretary for a year until 2011 and international trade secretary for three years until 2019, put himself forward last month after the chair was vacated by Tom Tugendhat, who took a job as security minister in Liz Truss's government.

He has considerable Foreign Office experience, having served as a junior minister in the department under John Major and shadowed the post under Michael Howard.



Muted mood as London fashion week goes ahead

Chloe Mac Donnell

London fashion week (LFW) began with a minute's silence in tribute to Queen Elizabeth at the Daniel W Fletcher show before a model in a black morning suit and matching armband took to the runway.

With LFW noticeably different to the usual fashion fanfare, participants on Thursday evening were just relieved it was happening.

When the death of the Queen was announced last week it was unclear whether LFW would be able to go ahead, with events planned during

the period of national mourning. Burberry, a royal warrant holder, declared it was cancelling its show within 24 hours of the news breaking. Raf Simons, the Belgian designer and co-creative director of Prada, who normally shows in Paris or New York (a huge coup for LFW to attract), was the second big name to drop out, abandoning a debut last night.

On Monday, the British Fashion Council, which runs LFW, said it would go ahead, albeit with all shows slated for the day of the funeral rescheduled, and parties banned.

For many new designers, the loss of established names had a massive knock-on effect. "Bigger brands have the funds to do whatever they want but for small designers like me we are impacted massively," said Dilara Fındıkoğlu, a Turkish-born, London-based designer whose show was moved from Monday to this afternoon, leaving her with two fewer days to prepare.

After two years of pandemic disruption alongside the uncertainty of Brexit, the fashion industry had

▲ Backstage at the Paul Costelloe show yesterday. There will be no parties this year at fashion week
PHOTOGRAPH: TRISTAN FEWINGS/BFC/GETTY

been optimistically looking forward to this season.

The UK sector is worth £32bn and LFW is a prime opportunity for designers to attract international press and buyers. The Queen acknowledged its importance in 2018 when she sat in the front row at Richard Quinn's show before awarding him the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II award for British design.

Tomorrow night, the national minute's silence will be observed at Christopher Kane's show. At Harris Reed on Thursday night a bride carrying a bouquet of lilies of the valley (a nod to the Queen's favourite flowers) closed the show while Adam Lambert sang a moving rendition of Who Wants to Live Forever.

Afterwards Reed said: "When you're a small brand, you have two shots a year to make a big moment. We couldn't afford not to do it."

£20,000

The amount WorldPR has paid to Liam Fox, a former Tory defence secretary, since August 2021

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Federer

Retiring star was graceful in play, graceful in defeat

Geoff Dyer



Well, it had to happen. But then, in a sense, it already had. We hadn't seen Roger Federer play since he was beaten easily by Hubert Hurkacz at Wimbledon in 2021. After that he announced he was having knee surgery and taking the rest of the season off. This was followed by further surgery and a longer period of rehab. So whereas Serena Williams went out in a blaze of announced glory at this year's US Open, Roger's retirement has taken the form of perpetual postponement.

His unsurpassable haul of 20 grand slams was surpassed, first by Rafael Nadal and then by Novak Djokovic, but still the official word was that he would be back. Was so much invested in him that the belief of a return had to be kept alive, even when it came to seem increasingly unlikely? The eschatological and the financial had become hard to disentangle. Still, we wanted a chance to show our love at Wimbledon next year, something ceremonial instead of this slow and invisible fade.

We can itemise the elements of Federer's appeal in ascending order of importance. He played quickly,



▲ Roger Federer serves to Rafael Nadal on his way to victory in the semi-final at Wimbledon in 2019

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS/THE GUARDIAN

Watching Nadal has become an ordeal, with those interminable rituals between points; with Federer a couple of bounces of the ball and he was ready. He was uncompromisingly aggressive, the opposite of a grinder, always

trying to win points. He was also the most graceful player of all time - Baryshnikov in sneakers, as the brothers McEnroe put it. His play was often described as effortless, but seeing him up close and in the flesh you were conscious of how hard he had to work to produce that illusion of ease. The single most beautiful component of his beauty was the one-handed backhand. He and Richard Gasquet saved the

one-hander from extinction to the extent that, like some endangered species released into the wild, it is now flourishing in the men's game.

Andre Agassi once said that tennis is all about someone's weakness - and Federer did not have any. That was why, after taking his first Wimbledon title in 2003, he went on to win everything in sight - except the French. It turned out that under the relentless

Agassi once said that tennis is all about someone's weakness - and Federer did not have any'

scrutiny of Nadal, this graceful backhand was susceptible to pressure and, like many beautiful things, could become fragile. And so the aura of invincibility dimmed.

He was simultaneously the greatest player of all time - and beatable. Federer was still the player people most wanted to see, but it came to seem inevitable that he would fall short against Nadal or Djokovic. He kept playing because, unlike Agassi, he not only loved playing tennis, he loved everything about being on the Tour, loved being loved and finding new ways to monetise that love.

Having achieved consummate grace in action he became gracious in defeat. At Wimbledon in 2003 he was just a great tennis player with a big spotty face and a ponytail; over the years he became charming, funny, famously nice to everyone. And then, after a first round of knee surgery, came the wondrous year of 2017 when he beat Nadal in the final of the Australian Open, hitting shoulder-high backhand winners to his opponent's terrifying forehand. This was followed by titles at Indian Wells, Miami, Wimbledon and, the following year, Australia again.

Our capacity to appreciate what we were seeing had improved; was it possible, also, that he was playing better than ever? Either way, we were privileged witnesses of a blissful phase when the most aesthetically pleasing way of playing was also the most efficient. Tennis as an ideal had been realised. He had two match points in the fifth set against Djokovic at Wimbledon in 2020 but failed to convert them (or Djokovic saved them) and the satisfied ideal gave way to an agonised "if only ..."

I wonder: is the newly crowned US Open champion and world number 1, Carlos Alcaraz, already feeling a pinch of that, thinking to himself: if only I'd had the chance to play Federer?

Geoff Dyer's book *The Last Days of Roger Federer* is published by Canongate

Osprey that got in a migration flap hitched a lift on two ships

PA Media

A young Scottish osprey hitched a ride on two boats during his first attempt at migrating, a team of researchers has found.

Glen, who has been fitted with a GPS tag, had already taken a while to leave his nest in Scotland. When

he made it to the tip of Cornwall, the bird of prey disappeared for two days and was presumed dead. However, at about 10pm on Tuesday, his tag pinged at a location on an outcrop of rock off the north-western tip of Spain.

The Australian conservation expert Sacha Dench, who has been called the "human swan" for her expeditions following bird migrations, is leading a

team of nine people tracking ospreys from the Moray coast in Scotland to Ghana, through 14 countries, to learn more about their migration.

She downloaded a map of Glen's flight, which showed unusually straight lines and 90-degree angles. She found the bird had stopped on what was first thought to be a fishing vessel in the Bay of Biscay for many miles, initially heading south-west, then back north-east.

Dench said Glen appeared to realise he was travelling in the wrong direction, so he flew towards Spain, eventually reaching land.

She discovered that when the bird

set off from Cornwall, the wind was blowing against him and it is likely that he landed on the vessel because he was exhausted.

After contacting the ship tracking website VesselFinder, she found that Glen had hitched a ride on a second ship before flying to Spain.

The first was the bulk carrier Agia Triada, going south to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and the other the Eco Nical, a tanker heading from Morocco to Immingham, Lincolnshire.

VesselFinder graphics show Glen was on the first ship for about 80-90 nautical miles and on the second for about 50 before he realised it was

going the wrong way and took off. Dench said the owners of Eco Nical regarded Glen's landing on their ship as good luck.

She added: "I'd like to particularly thank Alexander Tonev from VesselFinder for all his help in solving the mystery."

"It's a good job the internal 'GPS' in Glen's brain realised he was going in the wrong direction - otherwise he would have ended up not that far from his starting point."

"Glen has now started heading south into Spain and we are all keeping fingers crossed for the next stages of his journey."

'Jimmy Savile of trolling': ex-BBC radio DJ is jailed for stalking broadcasters

Jessica Murray
Midlands correspondent

A former BBC local radio DJ has been jailed for five years and 26 weeks for stalking broadcasters including Jeremy Vine and subjecting his victims to an “avalanche of hatred”.

Alex Belfield, 42, was found guilty last month of waging a relentless stalking campaign against broadcasters, with Vine labelling him “the Jimmy Savile of trolling”.

Sentencing Belfield at Nottingham crown court yesterday, Mr Justice Saini told him: "Your offences are so serious, only a custodial sentence can be justified."

The judge said that while Belfield's actions were not "traditional stalking ... your methods were just as effective a way of intimidating victims and in many ways much harder to deal with".

Saini added that there had been “no escape” for Belfield’s

victims until the bail conditions were imposed before his trial, and he said he agreed with Vine's characterisation that the former DJ had "weaponised the internet" against those he targeted.

He ordered indefinite restraining orders be made against Belfield, in favour of his victims and four other individuals.

The trial heard that Belfield had repeatedly posted or sent abusive messages, videos and emails to his



▲ Alex Belfield was told by the judge his offences were so serious only a custodial sentence could be justified

targets and in recent years had set up a YouTube channel known as Celebrity Radio.

The BBC Radio Northampton presenter Bernie Keith was left feeling suicidal by a “tsunami of hate”, the trial heard, while Vine, a Channel 5 and BBC Radio 2 presenter, described his abuse as “an avalanche of hatred”.

Jurors accepted that Belfield had caused serious alarm or distress to two victims and he was found guilty of “simple” stalking in relation to Vine and the theatre blogger Philip Dehany.

Saini said a pre-sentence report showed that, while Belfield “fully acknowledges the distress to victims”, it also “highlights you still appear to focus on the impact on you and feel in certain respects you’ve been unfairly treated”.

Giving evidence in court, Vine said watching Belfield's videos was "like swimming in sewage".

He continued: "It felt like I had a fish hook in my face and my flesh was being torn, and the only way to avoid further pain was to stay completely still."

"I was brought so low. I just thought: 'There's no point broadcasting if the effect is that I've got this.'"

Jurors convicted Belfield, of Mapperley, Nottingham, of four charges committed between 2012 and 2021.

Williams beats Elvis to be solo artist with most No 1 albums

PA Media

Robbie Williams has overtaken Elvis Presley to become the solo artist with the most UK No 1 albums.

The former Take That singer, 48, has secured his 14th chart-topping record with XXV, according to the Official Charts Company.

The compilation, which marks the 25th anniversary of his solo career, contains a selection of his greatest hits - including *Angel*, *Let Me Entertain You* and *Millennium* - reworked with an orchestra.

After overtaking the king of rock'n'roll, who scored 13 UK No 1 albums, Williams sits behind only the Beatles, who managed 15.

Williams said: "Thank you to everyone who's supported the album: everyone who's bought it, streamed it, downloaded it and reviewed it."

"I'm so pleased that it's gone to No 1, and while it feels strange to be receiving an award during these

sombre times, I wanted to thank you all for your support and dedicate this to the fans, who I never take for granted.”

During his time in Take That, Williams achieved four No 1 albums.

The overall record holder for an individual with the most UK No 1s remains Sir Paul McCartney, with 23 across his career in the Beatles, Wings and as a solo artist.

Ozzy Osbourne is at No 2 in the charts, a solo career best, with *Patient Number 9*, while Harry Styles is at No 3 with *Harry's House*, and Manic Street Preachers are at No 4 with a reissue of their 2001 record *Know Your Enemy*. Fifth place goes to the Reading rock band The Amazons' third album, *How Will I Know if Heaven Will Find Me?*

On the singles chart, Lewis Capaldi gets his third UK No 1 with Forget Me - after Someone You Loved (2019) and Before You Go (2020).



▲ The former Take That singer's album is his 14th to top the charts



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Life skills

Festival of thrift hits the zeitgeist

Mark Brown
North of England correspondent

In the window of an office on Redcar's rainswept esplanade is a washing line of recycled paper, slowly drying after being pulped and having seeds embedded in it. Soon it will become business cards and leaflets. Then it will be flowers in the ground.

Across the office table organisers of a festival taking place this month are discussing what should go where: the workshop on how to make your own laundry liquid, the sessions for children to learn sawing and hammering, or the do-it-yourself aromatherapy.

The Festival of Thrift has been going for 10 years but, with little sign of the cost of living crisis easing, it takes place this month with a huge amount of extra relevance. It is the UK's only national celebration of sustainable living and the message remains the same, said the festival's creative director, Stella Hall.

"We have never lost that starting point which is thrift, make do and mend, keeping things rather than chucking them into landfill, fixing things rather than throwing them away, swapping things rather than putting them in the dump."



▲ *Doing the laundry does not require costly shop-bought detergent*
PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HOLT/GETTY

◀ *Stella Hall helped set up the Festival of Thrift 10 years ago*
PHOTOGRAPH: MARK PINDER/ THE GUARDIAN

Over two days there will be food, music, art, interactive entertainment and a blizzard of workshops to make your own wildflower bombs, beeswax food wraps or clay mindfulness totems.

The festival will take over the village of Kirkleatham, part of Redcar, North Yorkshire, for two days. If visitors don't want to make things there are always the free tips on basic budgeting being offered by Darlington Building Society; or perhaps learn Japanese "boro" clothes mending techniques.

Hall is one of the festival founders and recalls how tricky it was, in the early days, to get sponsors. "One company said they would like to get involved but they said 'we've talked to our staff and they think it's a bit too hippyish'.



▲ *Making your own wildflower bombs is one of the workshops on offer at the festival, along with free tips on budgeting* PHOTOGRAPH: MIRIAM DOERR/GETTY IMAGES

How to make your own Laundry liquid

You will need:

- 1 cup of bicarbonate of soda
 - 1 cup of soda crystals
 - 5-10 drops organic essential oil (optional)
 - 1-2 cups of soap flakes (optional)
- Mix everything together and store in an airtight container.

To use: scoop 1/8 - 1/4 of a cup per wash. Note, if you leave in the open the powder hardens and you'll lose the fragrance.

Bicarb is a natural softener but you can also replace your shop-bought liquid with distilled white vinegar - the vinegar smell disperses in the rinse wash.

For this, add a few drops of organic essential oil but steer clear of synthetic fragrance. Lavender and tea tree is a lovely blend.

Add 5 drops of essential oil to a litre of distilled vinegar. Shake and store in a sealed glass bottle. Add 1 cup per wash. **Lou Rea**

Lou Rea is an aromatherapist who will be leading the love your laundry workshop at the Festival of Thrift

"But of course everyone came with their families and they had a fantastic time and so the next year the perception had changed."

They expected perhaps 5,000 in year one and about 25,000 people came. "We realised we'd hit a zeitgeist. There were people wanting to learn old skills and share their knowledge and share their stuff." Last year, with hardly any time to properly organise because of the pandemic, there were close to 50,000 visitors.

Art and artists will be at the heart of the festival. They have to be, says Hall. "Artists are always at the forefront of our thinking because they can help you re-vision the future. In subtle ways, every year, artists astound me with their ability to bring difficult concepts into a performance or an installation and really get our ideas across."

One highlight this year will be a collaboration between the novelist Ben Okri and the artist duo Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey. They will show a version of a work originally exhibited at Tate Modern in London in which Okri's words - "Can't you hear the future weeping? Our love must save the world" - were imprinted and grown in a large, living banner of grass.

Other events include an always popular swap shop, which may see someone bringing those unused garden shears and coming away with a probably never used ice-cream machine.

Planning for the festival takes place all year round, although Hall says: "It's a communities festival. We listen. We ask what do you want? What do you need? What can you offer? What can you share?"

It has important underlying messages about sustainable development but, Hall hopes, visitors won't come away feeling they have been preached to.

Hall says: "It's a responsibility to give people what they need, not just what you think will be fun and enjoyable. Yes it is about fun as well as some very serious messaging."

24-25 September at Kirkleatham

Man held after two police officers stabbed in London

Geneva Abdul and Vikram Dodd

A police officer was stabbed repeatedly in the neck and another constable stabbed through the arm after a man with a knife was challenged in central London.

Members of the public watched in horror as the officers were attacked near Leicester Square at about 6am yesterday. A man in his twenties was arrested and is being held in custody, and police say a knife was recovered from the scene.

The Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, said a female officer had challenged the suspect over suspicions he had a knife. The officer was stabbed through a vein in her arm and suffered huge blood

loss. The suspect then ran away, followed by police.

"We remain concerned that the injuries to the young woman officer's arm may still be quite serious and may potentially be life-changing, but that's yet to be worked through," Rowley said.

A male officer was repeatedly stabbed, three times in the neck and in the chest.

Rowley said: "Her colleague chases down the offender, catches him, a tussle ensues, that officer is stabbed three times in the neck and once in the chest. He's very seriously injured. Other colleagues join the scene. There's a violent struggle with a fairly frenzied individual - Tasers deployed, Pava spray [an incapacitant] is deployed, and then an officer uses his baton. Eventually

the offender is subdued and arrested. The two officers were rushed to hospital."

The Metropolitan police said both officers were based locally.

A Taser stun gun was deployed to subdue the suspect and a man, believed to be in his 20s, was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and assaulting an emergency worker. He was taken to hospital and has since been discharged into police custody.



◀ *Forensics workers at the scene of the stabbings, near Leicester Square, which were not thought to be related to terrorism*

Rowley, who took up his role on Monday with a mission to reform the Met, said: "It's a reminder to me that with all the calls for reform in the Metropolitan police, which are absolutely necessary, we should never forget that we've got thousands of dedicated men and women going out every day who are prepared to be brave for Londoners."

The deputy assistant commissioner, Stuart Cundy said the attack was not believed to be terrorist in

nature or linked to events surrounding the death of the Queen.

The incident came as the UK prepared for a huge security challenge in the lead-up to the Queen's funeral on Monday.

London's mayor, Sadiq Khan, called the attack "utterly appalling and disgraceful". He said he had spoken to Rowley about the incident and remained in close contact, and he urged anyone with information to come forward.

"These brave officers were doing their duty and assisting the public at this momentous time for our country," he said. "Attacks against the police will not be tolerated and any perpetrators will be caught and prosecuted."

The home secretary, Suella Braverman, said she had discussed the situation with Rowley.

"Every day, we are safer thanks to the bravery of our policemen & women," she wrote on Twitter. "I wish the police officers a swift recovery and my thoughts are with their family, friends and colleagues."

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Emma Brockes
New York diary



Affection is at a high but if anyone can lose a crowd, I'd hazard Charles III can

Monday

Lest we get too comfortable in our attitudes of deference this week, let's take a quick, corrective glance at Prince Andrew. There he was, out front at Balmoral at the weekend, trying to slide back into public favour and by Monday, apparently, succeeding.

I get it: even without royalty to reckon with, a heckler who shouts insults at someone as they walk behind their mother's coffin is guilty of impertinence bordering on monstrous.

Still, one wonders if there might be some middle ground between scraping the floor with our foreheads and acknowledging that, were the Duke of York to apply for a job at a high school, he probably wouldn't clear the background check.

"Oh, God," says an Australian reporter friend after filing to her news desk in Sydney. "My lot have gone off the deep end because it looks like the heckler is Australian."

I rewatch the clip of a man shouting at Andrew from the Edinburgh crowd before being tackled by bystanders and dragged off by police. "Sounds Scottish to me," I say.

"Yes, but look at his shirt." The next morning, the Sydney Morning Herald splashes Australia's shame across the headlines: "Heckler wearing Melbourne City FC shirt arrested

after shouting 'sick old man' at Prince Andrew."

A false alarm, it turns out. The 22-year-old in question was not Australian - perhaps he bought the shirt on his gap year - but either way, it is only the beginning of a week of pain for the world's foreign correspondents.

"Is Holyrood a palace, a castle or the Scottish parliament?" asks my friend. "How's a queen consort different from a queen?" A long-suffering sigh. "What the arsing hell is the privy council?"

Tuesday

An email comes in from a firm of west London solicitors I used in 2002, inviting me to share in their sorrow at the Queen's death. Barnes and Noble releases a statement. The casts of Les Misérables and Hamilton express

regret at the death of the monarch and the quieter, more discreet death of irony.

Back in Australia, where it is the AFL football season, the men's game opens with the traditional acknowledgment of country - a land acknowledgment to Indigenous Australians - followed by a minute of silence for the Queen. Some players in the women's game flat out refuse to engage in the silence.

For those covering the story in Britain there are more pressing concerns: the fact that Prince Harry and Meghan seem always to hold hands in public, while Prince William and Kate never do.

It's hard to say how much this image has been massaged by picture editors, but all week, we see photos of the new Prince and Princess of Wales standing a wing span apart, while the Sussexes lean cosily into each other. One feels sorry for them all, and for anyone who, while reading news of the Queen, inadvertently stumbles on thoughts by a "body language expert" endeavouring to explain her grandchildren's marriages.

Wednesday

Affection for the new king is at an all-time high but if anyone can lose a crowd, I would hazard Charles III can. His pen meltdown, reports that he won't have to pay tax on his inheritance from the Queen, the video circulating of an old TV interview with Harry in which he

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accuses his father of failing him as a child ("just because you suffered, that doesn't mean your kids have to suffer"). William, telling a well-wisher at Sandringham that walking behind his grandmother's coffin was hard because it took him back to his own mother's funeral.

All serve as reminders that King Charles is still Prince Charles, a man we may feel we know relatively well. Add to this cancelled doctor appointments and the initial decision by Center Parcs to close on Monday - any news story in Britain containing the words "holidaymakers angry at" guarantees someone is done for - and it may be that the honeymoon is relatively short-lived.

Thursday

Good cheer arrives in surprising forms, be it the timing of a rainbow, the memory of a sandwich, or Theresa May, who becomes more appealing with each passing Tory prime minister.

In the days immediately after the Queen's death, the former prime minister had them in fits in the Commons with her anecdote about the Queen and a piece of cheese at Balmoral. This week she continued making public appearances and speaking about the Queen with such warmth and humanity that one wondered where this delightful version of her had been until now.

For surprise transformations, it can really only be beaten by the time Michael Crawford turned from Frank Spencer into the Phantom of the Opera.

Friday

Like everyone else, I've never seen anything like the queue forming this week to file passed the Queen's coffin - a queue that, were it to be stood on one end, would rise higher than Mount Everest (this may be untrue), or, once joined, would take 279 days to get to the front of (ditto). It's a queue to break one's heart, full of vacuum flasks, cheerfulness, solidarity, snake-eyed vigilance against people pushing in, and including a woman who has held in a wee for a solid 48 hours - a feat to be immortalised, two years hence, in The Queue, a novel by Cormac McCarthy, and later an Oscar-winning film (dir. Yorgos Lanthimos).

Countries less in favour of queues don't understand the true nature of queueing: that one waits with no particular expectation of arrival. That it's about place, not progress. That one respects and resents those further up the line and pities those behind, while taking comfort in their relative disadvantage. It may be absurd, but it demands an eccentric devotion simply because it is how things have always been done.



Woman at rest between items on her to-do list (husband not shown)

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN SMITH/ALAMY; NIKOLAY DOYCHINOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Eyewitnessed Pictures of the week

► People drop into Kasarani stadium for the inauguration of Kenya's new president, William Ruto
BRIAN INGANGA/AP



▲ Jessica Macaulay of Canada diving from the 22-metre platform at the sixth stop - at Sisikon, Switzerland - of the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series
ROMINA AMATO/RED BULL/GETTY IMAGES



◀ Tourists taking boat rides in an aquatic forest at Luyang Lake wetland park in Jiangsu province, China, during the mid-autumn festival holiday
VCG/GETTY IMAGES



◀ Models dressed in creations from the New York-based LaPointe label pose for a presentation during New York fashion week
PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN LAMPARSKI/GETTY IMAGES FOR NYFW: THE SHOWS



▲ A pair of flamingos captured during their courting ritual at the Bhigwan bird sanctuary by the Bhima River in Maharashtra, India
VISHAL LOKARE/MEDIADRUIMAGES



▲ A colourful sunrise in Wareham, Dorset
RACHEL BAKER/BNPS



◀ The British actor Matthew Macfadyen, centre, being congratulated after winning the Emmy for outstanding supporting actor in a drama series for Succession in Los Angeles
PATRICK T FALLON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Theatre

Lipman brings spark to Jewish memory play

Rose
Park theatre, London
★★★★☆

David Jays

Rose doesn't believe in the future. It's hard to look forward when there's so much past to contend with. In this memory play, its Jewish heroine sits shiva - mourning for the many dead. Martin Sherman's solo play summoning the Jewish 20th century premiered in 1999. Maureen Lipman starred in an online production in the pandemic - now she gets to spellbind in person. Often goofily physical, here she is rivetingly contained (though



▲ Maureen Lipman plays Rose PHOTOGRAPH: TRISTRAM KENTON/THE GUARDIAN

the lighting can make her seem trapped in a lava lamp). She'll crack a joke then watch us quizzically; chasms open behind the twinkle. Tears fall, barely acknowledged: Rose's turn is an unsentimental one. "If you have your first period and your first pogrom in the same month, you can safely assume childhood is over." Persecution's senseless cruelty is a recurrent thread: the Warsaw ghetto and the unyielding postwar British, military ire directed at refugees in leaky boats that still feels all too familiar. Rose evokes her fervent first

husband and her klutzy second, bringing her from exhausted Europe to Atlantic City. No one there wants tales from the Shoah: Rose is bewildered by Jews wielding rifles. Her son and grandchildren eventually settle in Israel. "Your shadows are killing us," they insist. Scott Le Crass's production suggests Jewish identity as an act of memory, even when recollection is the last thing you can bear. Rose, who always feels displaced, makes the century real by remembering it.

Until 15 October

Theatre

A love story shaped by hostile system

The P Word
Bush theatre, London
★★★★☆

Arifa Akbar

The P Word is a love story with shades of When Harry Met Sally: it has the same awkward will-they, won't-they friendship, cuteness and schmaltz. But Waleed Akhtar's duologue is ingeniously so much more: a consciousness-raising play about homophobic persecution, racism within the gay community and Britain's hostile asylum system. Bilal, played by Akhtar, is a British Pakistani who has been bullied at school for being brown, big and gay. He has transformed himself into a Grindr-addicted gym body, changing his name to Billy and defensively chasing hookups

with only white men. Zafar, played with tenderness by Esh Alladi, is a Pakistani claiming asylum in the UK; his gay lover was murdered and he is marked for the same fate if he returns to his village near Lahore. Directed by Anthony Simpson-Pike, they are oblivious of each other for the first part of the play, but there is an emotional gear-shift when they meet. The play hurtles on, led by unlikely friendship, while Bilal's emotional transformation comes too quickly. But the story has an irresistible quality that makes us believe in it and we are swept along. We get the Bollywood ending that the play knowingly drives towards, but which it undercuts in the same breath to make a point about asylum. This overemphatic moment is not needed - we get the message through the story itself.

Until 22 October



▲ Esh Alladi as Zafar, and Waleed Akhtar as Bilal, in The P Word



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World

'A complete catastrophe' Izium searches for answers in mass grave

Isobel Koshiw and
Lorenzo Tondo Izium

The men digging in the dusty ground looked visibly sickened by the gruesome task they had been given. The rotted bodies were mangled and the smell poisoned the fresh forest air. One corpse had a rope around its neck.

Those on break mostly stood with their spades and goggles, looking on at their colleagues from the state rescue services who were red in the face from the hard labour of tugging the bodies out of the graves and sweating from their blue plastic overalls.

In woods a few miles from the centre of Izium, the north-eastern Ukrainian town recaptured by Kyiv from Russia last weekend, hundreds of police detectives, prosecutors, forensic doctors and journalists gathered at the site of hundreds of burials revealed in the wake of the Russian retreat.

"We have found 445 graves here in this place alone," said Oleksandr Filchakov, the chief prosecutor of the Kharkiv region that includes Izium. "Then, a few meters away, we found a big grave containing 17 Ukrainian soldiers buried all together. Most of the civilians were buried individually."

Locals say those being exhumed from the site were killed by Russian forces, who occupied the strategic



▲ Forensics experts work at a mass grave outside the city of Izium

city for six months, using it as a base for its assault on the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

The rescue workers digging in the earth read out details of their finds to police and prosecutors who took notes and filmed the process from above. Some residents arrived with drawn faces to bear witness from a distance.

Ukrainian authorities say there could be more grave sites and that their investigation into events in Izium under Russian occupation is just beginning.

Many of the graves were simply marked with numbers, not names and dates that could be used to identify the deceased.

Tamara Volodymyrovna, the head of an Izium funeral home that operated throughout the occupation, said she was instructed by the occupying forces to write numbers instead of names and record both in a journal. She said the new Russian administration did not provide the materials to make proper grave markings.

Out of those Volodymyrovna handled, she said at least 100 were killed in the spring during the Russian assault on Izium, most by Russian bombs during the first weeks.

She said this included at least 20 children, some of whom died because they did not reach their basements in time.

But Volodymyrovna had just one of what could be several journals containing the names of those who died during Russia's occupation.

"We had a journal and the volunteer [gravediggers] had a journal," said Volodymyrovna. She said the police had taken hers and she knew the police had been in touch with the volunteers.

"It was a complete catastrophe," said Volodymyrovna, describing how people buried bodies wherever they could during the heavy bombing, bodies which then had to be reburied later.



Ukraine says mass graves discovered near Izium



445

Graves found by investigators near Izium. One was said to contain the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers

20

Number of children killed by Russian army bombardments said by a local undertaker to be buried at the site

Multiple residents, including Volodymyrovna, said Moscow had captured the town through heavy bombardment that began in early March. "After that there was still shelling but people died more rarely," she said.

The Guardian saw one civilian being unearthed with a rope around his neck. Police at the scene said they also suspected torture.

Volodymyrovna said she did not know of torture victims but she, like all other residents the Guardian spoke to in Izium, said she knew of former military people and their families being rounded up in the town. They were taken to unknown locations. Their fate, to date, remains a mystery.

"I knew that in the building where I lived there was one man who fought in the Donbas," said Serhiy Shtanko, 33, who was witnessing the exhumation. He lived in the first floor of an apartment building literally split in two by a Russian bomb, which reportedly killed over 40 people, many buried under the rubble.

When pets attack
Kangaroo owner's
death highlights risk
Page 43



'Perfectly organised'
Man in wig behind
French train thefts
Page 47



"But in the end, when they came to search the apartments, they kidnapped [the] other two veterans who had fought in the Donbas that I was not aware of. I was shocked to see the amount of information that they gathered."

Other townspeople suspected by Russian forces of pro-Ukrainian sentiments took their own lives after severe interrogation, Volodymyrovna said.

"I know that after several of those people later hanged themselves," she said. "Maybe because they were tortured or beaten and couldn't process it emotionally."

She said not all the deaths in the town were handled by her. "We buried territorial defence and a few soldiers. The rest of the [Ukrainian] soldiers we didn't bury because they didn't allow us to. Where their bodies went, I don't know," she said.

Volodymyrovna said she prayed the Russians would not return. Izium has for centuries been the gateway to the Donbas region of

▲ *Ukrainian rescue workers take a break during exhumation work at the mass burial site outside Izium*

PHOTOGRAPH: ALESSIO MAMO/THE GUARDIAN

eastern Ukraine and, from there, to the Black Sea. Before the war it had a population of 46,000.

Izium fell to Russian forces on 1 April and Moscow turned it into the main launching point for the assault against the remaining Ukrainian troops in the Ukrainian-controlled Donbas. Local authorities managed to evacuate part of the population but, according to officials, approximately 10,000 citizens remained trapped.

Some of the residents who had gathered to witness the exhumation came because their relatives were buried in the site, next to an existing cemetery. Hrehoriy Pryhodty, 72, started to weep recalling his wife, Luba, who was killed by a Russian bomb in the first week of March. "There hasn't been and won't be anyone like my Lubochka," he said.

Ukraine Moscow accuses Kyiv of targeting pro-Russia officials

Luke Harding
 Kharkiv

Russia has accused Ukraine of carrying out targeted strikes in the cities of Kherson and Luhansk against local officials who have been collaborating with Moscow.

At least five HIMARS missiles crashed into the central administration building in Kherson, which Russian troops have occupied since March after arriving from Crimea. Video footage from the scene showed smoke pouring out of the complex as well as debris.

On the other side of the country, in the eastern city of Luhansk, a pro-Russia prosecutor and his deputy died when their office was blown up. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear.

The Kremlin news agency Tass said Sergey Gorenko, the prosecutor general for the so-called Luhansk People's Republic, a puppet regime established by Russia in 2014, had died at the scene.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's senior adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said Ukraine was not behind yesterday's mysterious explosion in Luhansk. It was caused by an internal mafia dispute or was an attempt to get rid of witnesses, he suggested.

"Elimination of so-called 'LNR prosecutor general' and his deputy should be considered as showdowns of local organised criminal groups that could not share looted property before a large-scale escape," Podolyak posted on Twitter. He added: "Or as Russian Federation's purge of witnesses to war crimes. Investigation will show ..."

The Ukrainian mayor of occupied Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, said explosions had been seen in the southern city yesterday. "I hope the Russian fascists have suffered losses among their personnel and equipment. Awaiting good news from the armed forces of Ukraine," he said.

There were also unconfirmed reports from the port city of Berdiansk that a local election chief had been killed. Oleg Boyko was in charge of the commission overseeing a referendum on joining Russia. A deputy mayor in the city's pro-Moscow administration, he was found



dead together with his wife, Lyudmila, Russian media said.

These seemingly coordinated attacks are likely to unnerve local collaborators across Ukraine. The Kremlin had been planning to stage referendums in Kherson and the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region, as well as in Donetsk and Luhansk, which Moscow has in effect part-controlled for eight years.

But these state-building measures, in which occupied areas would be folded into Russia, have been dropped as a result of military defeats. Ukraine's armed forces have recaptured almost all of the Kharkiv region in a stunning counteroffensive.

They have advanced close to the border of the Luhansk region, which Russia fully occupied in June. Devastated Russian units have been building new defences in anticipation of a further Ukrainian push.

Queues of cars were spotted at the Russian border as some of those who feared they would be accused of collaboration with occupying forces left Ukraine. Several complained the occupying Russian forces had promised to stay "for ever" in cities such as Izium and Kupiansk - a pledge that was not fulfilled.

The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, was in Uzbekistan yesterday for a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, directly challenged him on the conflict that began with Russia's 24 February invasion. "I know that today's era is not an era of war, and I have spoken to you on the phone about this," he said.

Putin told Modi he understood his position and "the concerns you constantly express".

'I hope the Russian fascists have suffered losses among their personnel and equipment. Awaiting good news'

Ivan Fedorov
 Melitopol mayor

▲ *Ukrainian troops at an entrenched position near Russian-occupied Kherson, the city hit by missiles*

PHOTOGRAPH: JIM HUYLEBROEK/EYEVINE

Speaking to reporters at the end of the summit, Putin accused the west of wanting to break up Russia, and said his "special military operation" had been launched to prevent this. He said he saw no need to change plans on the battlefield despite Ukraine's counteroffensive. "We are not in a hurry," he said.

The Kherson missile strike happened as the pro-Russia heads of occupation administrations in the Kherson region met in the city's main government building. Those attending included Kremlin-approved representatives of villages and towns.

It appears to have been the work of precise intelligence combined with devastating US-supplied HIMARS long-range rockets, which are accurate to within 4 metres.

Ekaterina Gubareva, the deputy head of Kherson's Russian-controlled city hall, said she initially "did not understand" what had happened. Writing on Telegram, she added: "There was smoke and ringing in my ears. I came round when someone pulled me out. A young guy dragged me from the ruins. I'm alive, and back at work. We are tallying our staff."

She blamed Ukrainian "bandits" for what she called a "terror attack" in broad daylight. The driver of one official had died, she added.

The Ukrainian head of the Kherson regional administration, Volodymyr Saldo, was poisoned last month. It was unclear who was responsible. He was transferred to a clinic in Moscow where he apparently died last week.

His deputy, Kirill Stremousov, claimed that Saldo had died but later deleted the post. Stremousov, a former journalist known for his extreme rightwing views, may have been the target of yesterday's HIMARS strike. He recently claimed the situation in Kherson was under control, in a video geolocated to a hotel in Russia.

Ukraine's military declined to comment on the explosions. Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for Kyiv's southern operational command, said Kyiv was keen to avoid "informational chaos". "Happiness loves silence," she remarked.

News

War in Ukraine

Analysis

Dan Sabbagh



Contrast in morale – high for Ukraine's troops, low for Putin's – could be key

The Ukrainian video begins with the Dunkirk beach scene from the film *Atonement*, the soldiers' stirring rendition of *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. Until it transitions to several hundred Ukrainian troops, singing the country's national anthem in the open air, ahead of last week's successful Kharkiv offensive.

Life may be trying to imitate art, but in this case there is no clearer demonstration of Ukrainian national morale as the war heads towards the end of its seventh month.

The unprovoked attack by the country's larger neighbour has unleashed a patriotic mobilisation that is having a transformational effect on the battlefield.

Contrast that with the Russian troops. Faced with a lightning Ukrainian attack that cut off the strategic city of Izium a week ago, some departed in haste, abandoning tanks and other munitions, and engaging in looting as they nominally withdrew from the frontline.

"Morale," says Jack Watling, a land warfare expert at the military thinktank Royal United Services Institute, "is the most important factor for ground forces. 'It is not just about how soldiers feel about their prospects relative to the enemy, it's also about the experiences they have

recently had and how they are anticipating into the future."

On one side is an army – Ukraine's – that considers itself to be fighting for the cause of national liberation. Having beaten off the Russians from Kyiv and now pushing them back from the north-eastern city of Kharkiv, Ukraine increasingly believes it will one day win the war, helped by western intelligence and financing and, above all, western artillery and other fresh munitions.

Morale cannot be detached from the wider military and political context, but it is also an important component of both. Reports from visiting wounded Ukrainian soldiers frequently emphasise that many want, if at all possible, to return to the frontline, and that the fight against Russia is necessary.

Set against them are the Russian invaders, a mixture of elite soldiers, recent recruits, lightly armed and sometimes conscripted separatists, often reluctant to fight outside their home provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. Many are exhausted, having fought, without rotation, for six-plus months.

While Ukraine has quietly trained large numbers of troops from its initial mobilisation, and replenished them with western-supplied weapons, Russia has done so far less and, the US says, is now buying weapons from North Korea. Winter is coming, and how well each side is prepared will be critical.

▼ Ukrainian soldiers near Izium, where a lightning attack prompted some Russian troops to pull out

PHOTOGRAPH: JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Watling says: "The Russians have poor morale, poor camaraderie, a lack of confidence in their command from the beginning. Most soldiers were not told a war was starting, and many things they were told about Ukrainians were wrong."

There have been repeated examples of a reluctance by some Russian soldiers to fight, and of difficulties faced by Moscow in recruiting.

Russia would not be the first great power to be humbled by a smaller but more determined opponent in recent history. The Taliban ultimately regained power in Afghanistan last year because the US no longer had the appetite to fight a long, grinding war against an opponent not ready to concede.

War can come down to which side is willing to sustain the most casualties, if a quick victory cannot be obtained.

But even Ukraine and its western supporters have been surprised by the national determination to fight. As the war began, US officials feared that Kyiv could fall within

days; at the very least, western officials expected the city to be encircled. Senior Ukrainians have reported their surprise at how diligently orders were carried out, with one telling the Washington Post that since the invasion, government officials had "worked more efficiently than ever".

Ideology, religion and nationalism all help win wars but a sense of justice is important, too. Fresh reports that more than 440 bodies have been found at a single burial site near Izium are likely to be the beginning of grim

revelations about the reality of Russian occupation – and will in turn act as a motivator for troops and others in Ukraine. Visitors to Ukraine are often given a tour by politicians of the mass burial site in Bucha, north of Kyiv, to try to win them to the defenders' cause.

Contrast that, again, with the Russian side. This week a video emerged of the mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin addressing a large group of prisoners, telling them "if you serve six months" in his Wagner group "you are free"; that the war in Ukraine was "a hard war, not even close to the likes of Chechnya"; and that their help was needed. While some Ukrainian soldiers are being trained in places such as the UK, new recruits on the Russian side come from jail.

Such a contrast between motivated and mercenary is likely to accentuate into next year and will play a critical factor as the war runs on, assuming western support for Ukraine continues. "I believe we are now on a trajectory for a Russian defeat in Ukraine next year," Watling says.

Reports from visiting wounded Ukrainians frequently emphasise that many want, if at all possible, to return to the frontline

Rosneft Germany takes control of Russian oil giant's subsidiary

Philip Oltermann
Berlin

Germany has taken the German subsidiary of the Russian oil giant Rosneft under state control, putting three refineries into a trusteeship ahead of a partial European embargo on Russian oil at the end of the year.

The federal network regulator will become the temporary trust manager of Rosneft Germany and its share of refineries in Schwedt, near Berlin, in Karlsruhe and in Vohburg, Bavaria, Germany's ministry for economic affairs announced yesterday.

Rosneft Germany is the country's largest single oil processing company, accounting for about 12% of its capacity for processing crude oil.

Germany's Federal Network Agency is already the trustee of

Gazprom Germania, having been appointed to take control of the Russian state-owned company's subsidiary in April.

At a press conference in Berlin yesterday afternoon, the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, said the move had been made to ensure that Germany would be supplied with oil "in the medium and long term".



► The PCK Schwedt refinery, which took Russian oil from the Druzhba pipeline that runs across Ukraine

He added: "Russia is no longer a reliable supplier of energy; that is obvious from recent weeks."

Much of German anguish about an oil embargo has concentrated on the PCK Schwedt refinery on the border with Poland. The site, which employs about 1,100 people in one of Germany's economically weaker regions, is key for the supply of petrol to the entire Berlin-Brandenburg region, including the capital's airport. Scholz said the trusteeship would ensure that the refinery could continue to run, and "redundancies should thus be avoided".

Schwedt had been reliant on supplies via the Soviet-era Druzhba ("friendship") pipeline, which takes Russian oil across Ukraine to Europe. After months of wrangling, the EU in May agreed to a partial ban on Russian oil, with the aim of cutting off funding to the Kremlin's war machine. According to the European Council president, Charles Michel, three-quarters of Russian oil imports

would be affected immediately, rising to 90% by the end of the year.

In a concession to Hungary, Druzhba was exempted from the embargo, but Germany and Poland will stop using the pipeline for oil deliveries from the end of the year.

According to Germany's economic ministry, the country has since the start of the Ukraine war reduced the share of Russian oil in its overall consumption from 35% to 12%.

How Germany will compensate for Russian oil in the future remains unclear, however. One solution under discussion is to supply the oil that is refined at Schwedt via Baltic seaports in Rostock or Gdansk in Poland.

Gdansk can feed into Druzhba via a pipeline link and could in the future ship in oil deliveries from the US or countries such as Kazakhstan.

Scholz announced €1bn (£874m) of investment in the region, of which £825m would go to the Schwedt refinery and some to be spent on upgrading the pipeline from Rostock.

Beware kangaroos Fatal attack knocks marsupial's docile image



◀ Peter Eades, 77, died after being found with serious injuries last Sunday and is believed to have been attacked by his pet kangaroo

Narelle Towie

Kangaroos are often considered friend, not foe. But the marsupial's reputation took a hit this week when a 77-year-old Western Australian man was killed by the pet western grey he hand-reared from a joey.

As Peter Eades lay dying on his Redmond farm, 50 miles south of Perth, police had to shoot the three-year-old male kangaroo, which was preventing ambulance crew from reaching the injured man.

A Western Australia police spokesman, Ryan Langley, said family members had discovered the seriously injured Eades at about 5pm on Sunday. "It is believed the man had been attacked by the kangaroo earlier in the day."

It is only the second recorded death in 100 years from a kangaroo attack in Australia. The last was in 1936, when a 38-year-old New South Wales man, William Cruickshank, reportedly died from head injuries after trying to save his dogs from a kangaroo.

Graeme Coulson, a behavioural ecologist and associate professor at the University of Melbourne, said this week's attack was unexpected but unsurprising. He said Pet kangaroos were driven by the same instincts as their wild counterparts, and at this age, when they were not feeding or resting, they tended to fight.

"Probably the owner was seen as another kangaroo and presumably the kangaroo was trying to play-fight or perhaps [engage in] more serious dominance fighting with him," Coulson said.

Male kangaroos are strong, and use their sharp claws and powerful kick to fight for mating rights.

"Almost as soon as they start hopping, they start play-fighting. As they get older it becomes more serious," Coulson said. "An eastern grey that we know was killed in a fight. And they all have scars, scratches and tears - it's quite full-on when it happens."



▲ Western grey kangaroos during a fight. The males scratch and kick rivals in battles over mating rights

PHOTOGRAPH: AUSCAPE/UG/GETTY

Kangaroos are protected native animals in Australia. Under federal conservation laws, it is an offence to harm them or keep them as pets.

While kangaroo interactions are a long way from the 1960s television adventures of the eastern grey kangaroo Skippy, with the docile animals often appearing oblivious to their human neighbours, there have been many close calls over the years.

In March, a three-year-old girl was taken to hospital in New South Wales with head, back and arm injuries after a kangaroo hopped on to the home porch she was playing on in the northern tablelands.

A month later in Queensland a 69-year-old woman playing golf was knocked down and repeatedly stomped on by a kangaroo at Arundel Hills Country Club.

Nicknamed the boxing kangaroo, western greys have broad shoulders, long arms and paws that can be as big as human hands.

Coulson said kangaroos continued to grow throughout their lives, reaching sexual maturity by about four, and ultimately standing 2 metres tall and weighing up to 60kg (9st 6lb).

"They are pretty pumped with some serious muscle by the time they become a big male," Coulson said. "They rear up on to their tails, and that allows them to kick with their feet with big sharp nails. But they can also wrestle - they will get you in a headlock."

An official animal emblem of Australia - a kangaroo and emu hold up a shield in the country's Commonwealth coat of arms - the marsupial features in national sports team logos and on \$1 coins.

But Coulson said habitat loss from rapid development was a key issue for the six Australian species present in urban areas across the nation. "You get kangaroo populations that are surrounded by development and have nowhere to go," he said. "Some populations just sit there languishing."

In June, 200 kangaroos were moved from a development site in Baldvis, south of Perth, after the public protested against their destruction. Dozens of kangaroos reportedly perished in the move and Coulson said more needed to be known about relocating the

species as animals often struggled to find food and tried to return to their home range.

The victim of this week's kangaroo attack has been described as an animal lover. Eades, who established the Agonis Alpaca stud in Redmond in 1997, had described his herd as being like children to him and built a cemetery on his property to bury his animals when they died, according to ABC News. Next to his favourite alpaca Claudia's tombstone Eades had reportedly selected a place for his own grave.

His family said they just wanted him to be at peace and did not wish to comment further.

Western Australia Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions said it was preparing a report for the coroner.

Rapper Cardi B pleads guilty to strip club assault and avoids jail

Guardian staff

The US rapper Cardi B has pleaded guilty to assault charges related to a fight at a New York strip club in 2018.

She was due to face trial this week but accepted a plea deal that avoids prison. It results in her being charged

with third-degree assault and second-degree reckless endangerment while 10 other charges were dismissed. She was sentenced to 15 days' community service, and ordered to stay away from the women involved for three years and pay their court fees.

"No one is above the law," the Queens district attorney, Melinda Katz, said after the sentencing.

Prosecutors said Cardi B, 29, threw objects, including champagne bottles, at two sisters who were bartenders while also ordering her entourage to attack them.

She had claimed one of the woman was having an affair with her husband, the rapper Offset. The attack took place at Angels Strip Club in Flushing, Queens. Two co-defendants, Jeffrey Bush and Tawana Jackson-Morel also pleaded guilty. Bush will serve six months in jail.

▶ Cardi B attacked two bartenders at a club in Queens, New York, in 2018



"Part of growing up and maturing is being accountable for your actions," Cardi B wrote in a statement. "As a mother, it's a practice that I am trying to instil in my children, but the example starts with me. I've made some bad decisions in my past that I am not afraid to own up to. These moments don't define me and they are not reflective of who I am now. I'm looking forward to getting back to the things I love the most - the music and my fans."

If she fails to complete the community service by January 2023 she will face time in jail.

Giorgia Meloni Inside working-class Rome district that shaped Italy's likely next PM

Angela Giuffrida
Garbatella

Half-torn posters, one with the slogan still legible, are all that remain of what was once a branch of the youth wing of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) in Rome's traditionally leftwing and working-class Garbatella district, where Giorgia Meloni, poised to become Italy's prime minister after elections next weekend, grew up and charted her political path.

Undeterred by sometimes violent confrontations between young leftwing and rightwing militants in the early 1990s, and the exhortations to "kill the fascists" daubed on the walls of Garbatella, Meloni knocked on the door of the

MSI branch at the age of 15, and signed up.

Those in the neighbourhood who have recollections of the young Meloni, whose Brothers of Italy party emerged from the National Alliance, a descendant of MSI, say the toxic political atmosphere at the time was formative.

"I knew her grandmother," said Francesca, who was standing on the street next to the former MSI unit. "Giorgia was a very intelligent, determined girl who stuck to her path and never relented. I will definitely vote for her."

During a rally in Sicily in late August, Meloni said: "I try to be more calm, then they take pictures of me with swollen veins. I'm from Garbatella, and every now and then the soul comes out."

Meloni moved to Garbatella with her mother and elder sister, Arianna, to be near her

grandparents after their father abandoned the family and the siblings accidentally set fire to the apartment in which they previously lived, in the Camilluccia area of Rome, when constructing a den in their bedroom filled with toys, snacks and candles for light.

She wrote in her book, *Io Sono Giorgia* (I am Giorgia), that she was an irascible, defensive child whose determination to fend off her enemies was spurred by a group of boys who wouldn't allow her to play beach volleyball because they said she was too fat. She responded by going on a diet and eventually joining a volleyball squad.

The former wife of Valerio, a stallholder in a market close to Garbatella metro station, was among her teammates. "She remembered Meloni being dedicated to politics and fascinated with the history of the Mussolini period," he said.



▲ Meloni moved to Garbatella as a child, and joined the youth wing of Italy's neo-fascist movement MSI

In an interview with a French TV network during the Garbatella municipal elections in 1996, Meloni described Mussolini as "a good politician". In more recent years, she has endeavoured to spruce up her party's image, remoulding the political force as a conservative champion of patriotism, and saying in a video in August that the Italian right had "handed fascism to history" decades ago.

Brothers of Italy, which barely scraped 4% in the 2018 general elections, now leads a coalition made up of Matteo Salvini's far-right League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia which is forecast to seize a comfortable victory in the 25 September ballot.

Such an outcome doesn't sit well with many in Garbatella. However, with the leftwing parties divided in the upcoming election, many in the district are not sure who to back.

Pino Bocchino, who owns a bar near where Meloni grew up, said: "There are some who will vote for the right, but not me. Meloni will take us down a risky path."

Anna Di Pasquale, who owns a stall in the market, is in no doubt. "Garbatella was maybe more to the left when I was a child but today there's more of a mix," she said. "I've only ever seen Meloni on TV but I like her as a person. However, I hope it's not just all talk. They usually end up getting into power, earning a lot of money and then doing absolutely nothing."



▲ Protections removed under the last president have been restored

Sighting of new grey wolf family brings howls of joy in Oregon

Richard Luscombe

The sighting of a new family of grey wolves in Oregon's Cascade mountains has given wildlife advocates hope that the recovery of the species in the state is gathering pace.

The state's fish and wildlife department said two adults and two pups were spotted on a trail camera in August. Officials have designated the Warm Springs reservation where they were seen a new area of known wolf activity (AKWA), and the animals will formally be known as the Warm Springs pack, the third in the northern Cascades, if all four members survive beyond the end of the year.

"When we have resident wolves, like we know they're sticking in that area, that's when we create an AKWA," the agency's communications coordinator, Michelle Dennehy, told USA Today.

Decades of hunting almost wiped out the species across the 48 contiguous US states by the middle of the last century. In Oregon at the end of 2009 only 14 wolves were known to exist.

With protections from the Endangered Species Act beginning in 1974, numbers have risen slowly since, to 175 individuals in Oregon by the end of last year, living in more than 35 packs, according to Oregon's figures.

"The wolf count did not increase as much over the past year as in previous years, and a higher number of mortalities that included the loss of breeding adults certainly played a role," said Roblyn Brown, an expert with the Oregon wildlife department.

Earlier this year, a judge restored federal protections from hunting for grey wolves that were scrapped at the end of Donald Trump's presidency.

"Illegal wolf killing is rampant in Oregon, so these animals need every possible safeguard," said Amaroq Weiss, a wolf advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity.

"I hope this will be an exciting new chapter in the story of wolf recovery in the state, which is seeing wolves dispersing into territory where they haven't lived for decades."

A remnant population in the western Great Lakes region has expanded to about 4,400 wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, according to AP, and more than 2,000 wolves occupy six states in the north-west.



Tower block inferno Flames engulf a 42-storey skyscraper in the city of Changsha in Hunan, central China, housing offices of the state-owned telecommunications company China Telecom, according to the state broadcaster CCTV. Dozens of floors are believed to have been burned in the blaze, which broke out yesterday. The provincial fire department said later in a social media post that "at present, the fire has been extinguished, and we have not yet discovered any casualties".



PHOTOGRAPH:
TWITTER

US legal arbiter in Trump documents case described as fair and no-nonsense

Chris Stein *Washington*
Maanvi Singh *New York*

Raymond Dearie, the senior US district judge named as the “special master” – or independent arbiter – to vet records seized by the FBI from Donald Trump’s Florida estate has been described as an experienced legal operator who “doesn’t tolerate nonsense” and won’t “play games”.

The Florida-based US district judge Aileen Cannon on Thursday appointed Dearie to sit in the middle of a political spotlight, serving as the special master, requested by Trump’s side, in the legal fight between the former Republican president and the Department of Justice.

They are arguing over access for criminal investigators to dozens of boxes of government documents, including highly classified US secrets, that the former president stashed at his Florida resort and residence

after leaving the White House. “He [Dearie] works incredibly well with parties but doesn’t tolerate nonsense. He will not allow parties or attorneys to play games, or play fast and loose with the rules,” the New York-based civil lawyer Richard Garbarini, of Garbarini Fitzgerald, told Politico.

Dearie was one of two candidates for the post proposed by the former president, and the US justice department had said it would not oppose his appointment.

In her order, Cannon also rejected the justice department’s demand that prosecutors be allowed to continue their review of the seized records while the dispute is continuing, and their assertion that the investigation is urgent owing to the highly classified and sensitive material in the records. Investigators are currently blocked by Cannon from continuing to examine the material.

“The court does not find it appropriate to accept the government’s

conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion,” Cannon said in the ruling.

Dearie, who is 78 and based in Brooklyn, is tasked with deciding whether any of the documents seized by the FBI during the August search are privileged – either because of attorney-client confidentiality or through a legal principle called executive privilege – and should be off limits to federal investigators.

Other lawyers with experience of Dearie described him as thorough and even-handed.

“He’s one of the few judges who both sides want to appear in front of. He is held in the highest regard by attorneys. He’s someone who actually listens to the lawyers and considers what they have to say before he makes a decision,” Lindsay Gerdes, a former Brooklyn federal prosecutor, told Politico.

‘He will not allow parties or attorneys to play fast and loose with the rules’

Richard Garbarini
US civil lawyer

Dearie has until 30 November, which falls after the mid-term elections in early November, to finish the review. In less good news for Trump, he will be required to pay the costs associated with the special master.

Earlier this month, Cannon had granted a request by Trump’s lawyers to name a special master to vet the seized records.

The justice department is also looking into possible obstruction of the investigation after it found evidence that records may have been

removed or concealed from the FBI when it sent agents to the property in June to try to recover all classified documents.

Dearie served as US attorney in Brooklyn before being appointed to the federal bench there by the Republican president Ronald Reagan in 1986, and was chief judge of that court from 2007 to 2011. He assumed what is called senior status – a sort of semi-retirement with a reduced case load – in 2011.

The justice department had said in a court filing on Monday that Dearie’s experience as a judge qualified him for the special master role, but opposed the other candidate proposed by Trump’s team, the private attorney Paul Huck. Trump’s lawyers opposed the two retired federal judges proposed by the department.

It had opposed Trump’s request for a special master to review the seized documents to see if any should be withheld from investigators as privileged.

In ruling in favour of Trump’s request for a special master, Cannon rejected the department’s arguments that the records belonged to the government and that because Trump was no longer president he could not claim executive privilege.

Cannon was appointed to the bench by Trump in 2020.

Biden slams DeSantis for sending migrants to Martha’s Vineyard

Richard Luscombe

Joe Biden has slammed Ron DeSantis for “playing politics with people’s lives” for flying Venezuelan migrants to the wealthy liberal island community of Martha’s Vineyard, while the legality of the Florida governor’s move is also under scrutiny.

In what immigration activists and Democratic politicians have decried as a “political stunt,” Republican DeSantis, who is expected to run for his party’s presidential nomination in 2024, arranged for two charter planes of about 50 migrant adults and children to fly from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard on Wednesday.

Claiming that “every community in America should be sharing in the burdens,” DeSantis told a press briefing he wanted to draw attention to what he claims is a failure by the Biden administration to secure the US-Mexico border.

The president attacked DeSantis’s action in a speech late yesterday, also criticising Texas Republican governor Greg Abbott. Abbott arranged for two buses from his state to drop off more than 100 migrants from Colombia, Cuba, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama



▲ Venezuelan migrants gathered outside a church in Edgartown, on the island of Martha’s Vineyard

and Venezuela at the Washington DC residence of the vice-president, Kamala Harris, on Wednesday.

DeSantis, Abbott and Doug Ducey, governor of Arizona, have sent thousands of migrants to predominantly Democrat-run “sanctuary” states and cities they deem liberal on immigration, although Massachusetts has a Republican governor, Charlie Baker.

“Instead of working with us on solutions, Republicans are playing politics with human beings, using them as props,” Biden said at a gala for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in Washington DC.

“What they’re doing is simply wrong. It’s un-American, it’s reckless and we have a process in place to manage migrants at the border.

We’re working to make sure it’s safe and orderly and humane.”

Yesterday, as Baker said he had ordered up to 125 members of the Massachusetts National Guard to help move the migrants to more secure accommodation at a military base in Cape Cod on the mainland, questions were mounting over the legality of DeSantis’s action.

US attorney for Massachusetts Rachael Rollins said she planned to speak with the justice department, and Democratic member of Florida’s cabinet Nikki Fried wrote to attorney general Merrick Garland to demand a federal investigation into potential human trafficking. California’s Democratic governor Gavin Newsom said he had also written to the DoJ.

◀ DeSantis had about 50 adults and children flown from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard on Wednesday

PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS TANGNEY JR/GETTY IMAGES

Charlie Crist, the Democratic nominee for Florida governor, who will challenge DeSantis in November’s midterm elections, said he had filed a sunshine law request demanding information about the state’s legislature-approved “relocation programme.” Crist said in a statement: “Floridians have been forced to foot the bill for this governor to play his heartless political games, but we’re holding him accountable.”

Earlier this year politicians granted \$12m for DeSantis’s plan to relocate migrants to other states, but the language is specific to undocumented immigrants physically in Florida.

In Edgartown, Massachusetts, yesterday, residents and aid groups were working to care for and relocate the Venezuelan families, many of whom speak no English and say they were not told of their destination when they boarded the plane.

Several told journalists there was nobody at the airport to greet them, and they walked almost four miles to find help in the town, where they were put up in a church overnight.

“They were told there was a surprise present for them, and that there would be jobs and housing awaiting for them when they arrived. This was obviously a sadistic lie,” Rachel Self, a Boston immigration attorney assisting with the migrants’ cases, told a press briefing.

“We believe they are victims of kidnapping, and the perpetrators of this breathtakingly cruel political stunt should know that it may well result in every individual who was induced onto those planes by fraud becoming eligible for a U visa.”

That category of visa is granted to victims who cooperate with an investigation of a crime.

10

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Fatal flash flooding in central Italy forces climate crisis into pre-election debate

Angela Giuffrida
Rome

At least nine people have died and four are missing after dramatic storms provoked severe flooding in Italy's central Marche region, forcing politicians to finally raise the topic of the climate crisis a week before general elections.

Dozens of others are reported to have saved themselves by climbing on to rooftops and trees in scenes likened to an "apocalypse". Fifty people are being treated in hospital.

Heavy rain began to lash the region on Thursday afternoon, with streets turning into rivers and 420mm (16.5in) of rain falling in the worst-hit town, Cantiano, within a few hours; half the amount that fell on the town throughout the whole of 2021, *Corriere della Sera* reported.

Mario Tozzi, a geologist, told *La Presse* that six months' worth of rain fell across the region within three hours. The regional capital of Ancona and areas surrounding it were also badly affected.

"It's a tragedy," said Manuela Bora, a local councillor with the centre-left Democratic party. "But there was no warning, which leaves us speechless - we weren't prepared for such intense rain. It started yesterday and by about 9pm I was receiving videos where you could see the disaster the storms were causing. It's a bit more under control now in Ancona city but in some towns it is very serious, like an apocalypse."

Carlo Manfredi, the mayor of Castelleone di Suasa, told Rai News

yesterday that rescuers were still searching for an eight-year-old boy.

"Last night we found his mother alive," he said.

"She was in her car when she saw the water coming and she got out with the child in her arms. But he got dragged away."

A 17-year-old girl and her mother are believed to have been swept away by flood waters near the town of Senigallia as they tried to flee by car.

Francesco Acquaroli, the governor of Marche, which is led by the far-right Brothers of Italy, the party on the verge of gaining national power in the elections on 25 September, said he had received calls of solidarity from the president, Sergio Mattarella, and the prime minister, Mario Draghi.

"The pain over what has happened is deep, but the Marche is strong and will know how to react," he added.

Giorgia Meloni, the Brothers of Italy leader who could become Italy's prime minister, offered "full solidarity" to those affected.

The climate crisis has been largely absent from the pre-election debate, despite scientists launching a petition in August that was signed by over 120,000 people urging politicians to make the topic a priority.

Enrico Letta, leader of the Democratic party, announced yesterday that he was suspending campaigning over the tragedy, adding that he was "stunned and speechless".

"How can you think that the fight against climate change is not the first priority?" he said.

Francesco Rocca, president of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, wrote on Twitter that he was "very concerned by the growth of extreme weather events".

Italy's longest river, the Po, this year suffered its worst drought in seven decades, and in early July 11 people were killed when a huge mass of ice from a glacier on the north side of the Marmolada mountain in the Dolomites broke away, causing a fatal avalanche.



Sunglasses, jewels and 170 wallets among wigged thief's haul from TGV passengers

Angelique Chrisafis
Paris

Police in Marseille are attempting to track down more than 100 first-class passengers from across the world who had their luggage or wallets stolen during journeys across France by a gang whose leader would disguise himself in wigs.

After a woman leaving a high-speed train at Aix-en-Provence station this year reported to police that her bag containing €50,000 (£44,000) of jewellery had mysteriously disappeared during the journey, the station CCTV footage led to a months-long investigation.

Police discovered what they called an experienced operation by three thieves who regularly targeted first-class carriages on high-speed trains over a period of several years.



▲ A train west of Marseille, in an area targeted by the gang

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS HELLIER/ALAMY

◀ Some of the hundreds of items found in a Marseille apartment

PHOTOGRAPH: POLICE NATIONALE

"They were perfectly organised," Bouches-du-Rhône's police chief, David Brugère, told a press conference in Marseille.

The men, in their 40s and 50s from Marseille and Nice, were "skilled and quick", he said. "They bought valid tickets to get on the train."

The men had tickets for several routes, including Paris to Nice on the French Riviera, or Paris to Marseille, as well as Lyon to Geneva.

One of the trio would disguise himself in a variety of wigs and women's clothing, taking a seat next to unsuspecting passengers. Subtly, that thief and his two accomplices would take wallets, luggage left at people's feet or bags left unattended without raising the suspicions of the passengers.

They then got off at the next station.

In a small flat near Marseille's Saint-Charles station, police found what

they called an incredible stockpile of stolen goods, including 150 pieces of luggage, 170 wallets, hundreds of pairs of sunglasses, fountain pens, camera equipment, tech devices and expensive shoes.

They also found €137,000 in small denominations of cash. Officers said they were surprised that so many of the stolen goods were held in one place.

Police believe there are at least 170 victims spread across France and abroad. The complex task has now begun to try to trace the victims and owners of the stolen goods.

One victim, the owner of a €70,000 watch, was traced to San Francisco. His belongings had been stolen when he was heading to the Cannes film festival in 2019.

The three suspects, who have been charged with theft, face up to seven years in prison.

Dutch town takes Twitter to court over paedophile ring claims

Reuters
The Hague

A small Dutch town took Twitter to court yesterday to demand it take down all messages relating to a supposed ring of Satan-worshipping paedophiles alleged to have been active in the town in the 1980s.

Bodegraven-Reeuwijk, a town of about 35,000 inhabitants in the middle of the Netherlands, has been the focus of conspiracy theories on social media since 2020, when three men started spreading unfounded stories

about the abuse and murder of children they said took place in the town in the 1980s.

The main instigator of the stories said he had childhood memories of witnessing the abuse by a group of people in Bodegraven.

The stories caused much unrest in Bodegraven, as scores of followers of the men's tweets flocked to the local graveyard to lay flowers and written messages at the graves of children, who they claimed were victims of the satanic ring.

Twitter's lawyer, Jens van den Brink, declined to comment before

the hearing at The Hague district court yesterday.

Last year the same court ordered the men to remove all their tweets, threats and other online content relating to the story and to make sure that none of it could ever emerge again. But despite that, stories about Bodegraven still circulate on social media as others have continued to echo the claims, leading the town to take up the matter with Twitter.

"If conspiracy theorists don't remove their messages, then the platforms involved need to act," the town's lawyer, Cees van de Zanden,

was quoted as saying by the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* yesterday.

Van de Zanden said that in July, the town asked Twitter to find and remove all messages relating to the story - not only those posted by the three convicted men - but had so far not received an answer.

The men behind the Bodegraven story are currently all in jail, as they have been convicted in other court cases for incitement and making death threats to a range of people including the prime minister, Mark Rutte, and the former health minister Hugo de Jonge.

'It's a tragedy. There was no warning - we weren't prepared for such intense rain'

Manuela Bora
Marche region councillor

Financial

Pound falls to 37-year low against the dollar amid fears economy in recession

Phillip Inman

Fears that the British economy is already in recession after a slump in retail sales last month have triggered heavy selling of the pound on international money markets, taking it to a 37-year low against the dollar.

With average UK wages continuing to fall behind rising prices and the Bank of England expected to increase interest rates next week, sterling fell by more than 1% against the US currency to \$1.135, its lowest since 1985.

On the 30th anniversary of Black Wednesday, when the UK crashed out of the European exchange rate mechanism, the pound also hit a 17-month low against the euro, with €1 worth 87.66p. The FTSE 100 slid

0.3% to 7,258 points, down from 7,550 in August. Shares on European exchanges also tumbled, led by a 1.7% fall in the German Dax, while the opening of trading on Wall Street was marred by a warning overnight from the delivery company FedEx of a downturn in traffic that prompted a widespread sell-off.

A report from the World Bank added to the gloomy prognosis for the UK after it said rising interest rates could push the global economy into a recession next year, badly affecting nations like the UK that depend on revenues from trade.

The worsening global outlook came as the latest official data, released yesterday, showed cash-strapped Britons cut back on spending by more than expected in August, when retail sales volumes fell

by 1.6%. Economists had predicted a more modest fall of 0.5%.

The drop in sales last month was broad based, with petrol stations, supermarkets, clothing and furniture stores all experiencing a decrease, the Office for National Statistics said.

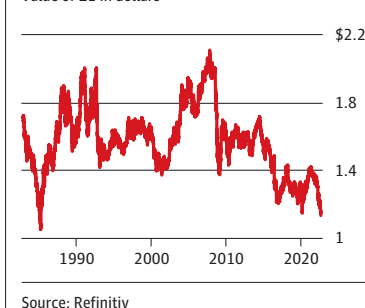
The last time this happened was in July 2021, when all legal Covid restrictions on hospitality were lifted and people headed out to bars and restaurants.

The ONS said “rising prices and cost of living” were hitting retail sales, and economists warned signs were there of an economy already in recession.

Olivia Cross, an economist at the consultancy Capital Economics, said that while she expected the UK recession would be shorter and milder after the government’s £150bn energy

The pound hit a new 37-year low of \$1.1351 on Friday

Value of £1 in dollars



Source: Refinitiv

price freeze plan, all the indicators showed an economic contraction had begun.

She said: “The 1.6% drop in retail sales volumes in August supports our view that the economy is already in

recession. Retail sales will probably continue to struggle as the cost of living crisis hits harder in the coming months. But nonetheless the Bank of England will still have to raise interest rates aggressively.”

Capital Economics said the extra £150bn injected into the economy will force the Bank to add another one percentage point to interest rates from its previous estimate, meaning it expects the Bank’s base rate to jump from the current level of 1.75% to 4%, adding more pain for those with mortgages.

Martin Beck, the chief economic adviser to the EY Item Club, said: “Real household incomes are still on course for a significant fall over the next 12 months or so. And with unemployment likely to rise, if modestly by the standards of past downturns, and the geopolitical outlook also full of uncertainties, confidence is unlikely to see much of a revival.”

Lisa Hooker, the industry leader for consumer markets at PwC, said: “Shoppers are simply buying less to offset price increases.” She added this was a worry for retailers as they approached the crucial Christmas shopping period.

Analysis

Larry Elliott

Why sterling is plunging on the 30th anniversary of Black Wednesday

The timing could hardly have been more appropriate: on the 30th anniversary of sterling being ejected from Europe’s exchange rate mechanism, the pound came under renewed pressure on the currency markets and hit its lowest level against the US dollar in 37 years.

Black Wednesday – 16 September 1992 – has a special place in British postwar economic history: a moment when the Treasury and the Bank of England took on speculators led by George Soros – and lost.

There will be no such dramatic shoot-out this time because the ERM debacle marked the end of Britain’s attempts to maintain the



◀ Crisis on the London stock market on ‘Black Wednesday’ in 1992, when the Treasury took on speculators – and lost PHOTOGRAPH: TODAY/SHUTTERSTOCK

pound at a fixed rate against other currencies. Ever since, sterling has been allowed to find its own level.

Even so, its recent slide against its US counterpart has started to raise eyebrows in the financial markets, where there is increasing talk that it might approach one-for-one parity against the dollar for the first time since early 1985.

As was the case in the mid-1980s, the strength of the dollar is part of the story. In times of heightened uncertainty, there is a tendency for investors to park their money in the world’s main reserve currency, and a slowing global

economy, rising inflation and the war in Ukraine have generated a risk-averse atmosphere.

Aggressive interest rate decisions by America’s central bank, the Federal Reserve, have pushed the dollar even higher. After underestimating the strength of inflation, the Fed is now playing catch-up. Stronger than expected US cost of living data this week means the central bank is certain to raise interest rates by 0.75 percentage points next week and some on Wall Street think it may opt for a full 1.0 percentage point increase. Higher interest rates

make the dollar more attractive to investors, because they get a better return on their money.

Yet, while sterling is not the only currency feeling the heat it has suffered more than most, and is now trading at its lowest level against the euro in more than 18 months. A falling pound makes UK exports cheaper but also makes imports dearer, putting upward pressure on inflation as well as making visits to the US more expensive.

There are three big factors driving sterling lower against the dollar. First, there is the state of

the economy: it was notable that the trigger for the latest fall in the value of the pound was the release of official data showing spending in the shops and online fell sharply last month. Consumer anxiety about 10% inflation and rising energy bills is having an impact.

Second, the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, is planning to set aside £150bn to cap domestic energy bills for two years. Britain is already running a hefty trade deficit and that is going to be matched by a much bigger budget deficit.

Third, hints from Liz Truss that she might change the inflation remit of the Bank of England, together with the defenestration of the Treasury’s top official – Sir Tom Scholar, have made investors nervous about holding sterling.

Better economic news would ease the pressure on the pound and the government will be anxious for evidence that its energy package is boosting consumer confidence and economic activity more generally. Parity against the dollar is by no means inevitable.

But as David Marsh, of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum thinktank, puts it: “Prime Minister Liz Truss, in office for just 10 days, faces extensive challenges with loyal, largely untried ministers. Given the size of the UK’s budget and current account deficits and uncertainties over Truss’s economic and energy policies, there is a risk of major pressure on sterling that could disrupt her government.”

**FTSE 100**
-45.39

7236.68

**All share**
-23.67

3976.66

**Dow Indl**
-312.93

30648.89

**Nikkei 225**
-308.26

27567.65

£/€
1.1399

-0.0098

£/\$
1.1433

-0.0058

Supermarket stakes

How Aldi overtook Morrisons to join ranks of 'big four'

Zoe Wood

If you want to know how difficult things are at the moment in the UK, look no further than the seesawing fortunes of the big supermarkets.

With food prices racing and the country on the brink of recession, sales are flying at Aldi and Lidl while the middle-class favourites Ocado and Waitrose are faltering as people try to save money on food.

This week Aldi became the UK's fourth largest supermarket chain, ejecting Morrisons from a "big four" lineup that was roughly the same for nearly 20 years: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons.

As Fraser McKeivitt, the head of retail and consumer insight at the analysts Kantar, puts it: the "traditional big four is no more".

This has been coming for a while. Aldi and Lidl made a breakthrough in the UK during 2008 financial crisis. Back then the German grocers had an air of novelty: trend-watchers talked of middle-class converts joining the "Aldi-rati". Now Aldi and Lidl together have 1,900 stores and a market share of 16.4%. They rake in £1 in every £6 spent on groceries in UK.

The supermarket rankings are based on data from Kantar, which

this week showed Aldi's sales up nearly a fifth over the 12 weeks to 4 September. This boosted its market share to 9.3%, overtaking Morrisons on 9.1%.

Giles Hurley, the Aldi UK and Ireland chief executive, says people are "prioritising value" with the chain serving an extra 1.5 million customers over three months.

At Lidl sales were up 20.9%, while at Waitrose and Morrisons sales were down more than 4%. Another loser was the online grocer Ocado, which this week warned its sales would drop as customers were trading down to value products or simply buying less.

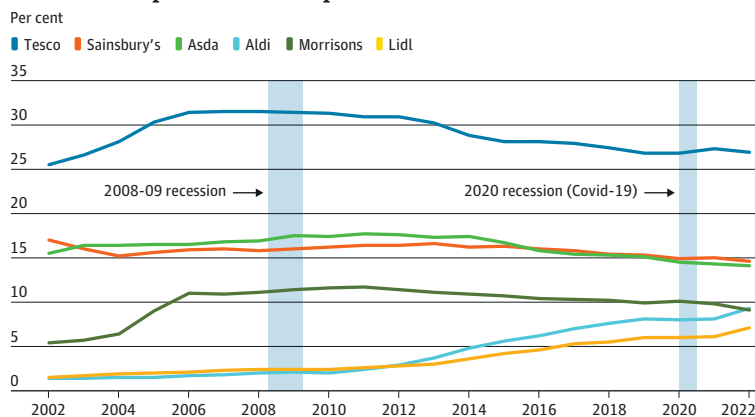
"After the financial crisis Aldi and Lidl became mainstream," says Clive Black, a Shore Capital analyst. "The snob value of not being seen dead in an Aldi went as people who had mortgages, credit cards and Mercedes-Benz on hire purchase needed to save money."

He suggests the swing to Aldi and Lidl is "unnatural" trade: "The big four are more competitive against Aldi today than they were 10 years ago but we do have another sort of economic moment."

It certainly is an economic moment. Household energy bills have nearly doubled and will remain at that level even with the promised bills freeze, while rising food prices have added nearly £600 to average annual grocery



How the UK supermarkets line up



bills. Food price inflation is 13.1%, a 14-year high, with big jumps for staples like milk, cheese and eggs.

Toby Clark, Mintel's director of research for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, says its surveys

indicate moribund consumer confidence. Four in 10 people said they were keeping to a strict shopping list and more than a third bought more "reduced to clear" items over the past two months.

▲ Aldi's market share rose to 9.3% in the three months to 4 September, outflanking Morrisons on 9.1%

PHOTOGRAPH: PAULA SOLLOWAY/ALAMY

Market share measures the total size of a business rather than the performance or profitability of its stores and, unlike Aldi, Morrisons is opening very little new space. However, analysts say Morrisons has taken its eye off the ball, with external surveys suggesting its prices have risen.

Morrisons' take on its eviction from the big four was that customers "don't really care about market share statistics". "They care about value, quality, provenance and service and that is where our focus is going to remain."

That's true, but when your market share starts falling it usually is a sign the sands are shifting in the cut-throat £206bn UK grocery market - and not in your favour.

Oil firms accused of misleading public over carbon emissions

Alex Lawson*Energy correspondent*

Campaigners have urged governments to intervene after oil companies were accused of misleading the public about commitments to reducing carbon emissions.

Oil and gas companies including Britain's Shell and BP were urged to "stop their deception" this week as the US House committee on oversight and reform released documents showing that oil industry executives privately played down their public messages on tackling climate change.

The memo claimed that internal BP

documents highlighted how carbon capture and storage (CCS) - a nascent technology that involves inserting CO₂ emissions into underground rock formations - could "enable the full use of fossil fuels across the energy transition and beyond".

Congressional investigators also unearthed an internal Shell email discussing carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) in which an executive said: "We want to be careful to not talk about CCUS as prolonging the life of oil, gas or fossil fuels writ large."

The committee said internal Shell messaging guidance - developed to "insulate Shell" from lawsuits about "greenwashing" and "misleading

investors" on climate change - calls on employees to emphasise that net zero emissions is "a collective ambition for the world" rather than a "Shell goal or target". It tells employees: "Please do not give the impression that Shell is willing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to levels that do not make business sense."

In separate documents, the oil firms Exxon and Chevron appeared to ask the industry-led Oil and Gas Climate Initiative to "remove language that potentially commits members to enhanced climate-related governance, strategy, risk management, and performance metrics and targets" and to avoid any "explicit commitment for OGC companies to align their advocacy with their climate related positions" - including advocacy for the 2015 Paris agreement.

Shell lost a landmark ruling in the Dutch courts last year, when a judge

ordered it to cut its global carbon emissions by 45% by the end of 2030 compared with 2019 levels.

Carolyn Maloney, the chair of the House committee on oversight and reform, said: "I call on the big fossil fuel companies to stop their deception - before it is too late."

Jamie Peters, a campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said: "Big oil

'Unless governments intervene, big oil firms will act only in the interests of their shareholders'

Jamie Peters
Friends of the Earth

firms will continue to act only in the interests of their shareholders unless governments intervene."

Shell said: "Of the nearly 500,000 pages provided to the committee, the small handful they chose to highlight are evidence of Shell's extensive efforts to meaningfully participate in the ongoing energy transition."

Exxon said it had supported the Paris accord since the start and continued to support the US government's participation in it, adding: "The selective publication of dated emails, without context, is a deliberate attempt to generate a narrative that does not reflect the commitment of ExxonMobil - and its employees, to address climate change."

BP told Bloomberg it has set near-term targets consistent with its ambition to become net zero by 2050.

Chevron has been contacted for comment.

Global funds urged to write off debts of crisis-hit Zambia

Phillip Inman

More than 100 economists and academics have urged international lenders to write off a significant slice of their loans to crisis-stricken Zambia during financial restructuring talks this month.

Zambia is seeking up to \$8.4bn (£7.3bn) in debt relief from major lenders, including private funds run by the world's largest investment manager, BlackRock, to help put its public finances back in order.

In the run-up to what are understood to be tense negotiations involving the Chinese, French and British governments, the anti-poverty charity Debt Justice said that only a major debt write-off could save the Zambian economy from collapse.

Led by the Columbia University economist, Jeffrey Sachs, and Jayati Ghosh of Jawaharlal Nehru University, the global group of more than 100 economists and experts said in

a letter to the creditors' negotiating committee that Zambia should be given a waiver from debt interest payments due until 2023.

This month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1.3bn loan to the country, which defaulted on its \$17.3bn of external debt after a collapse in its public finances during the pandemic.

Funds run by BlackRock are among the largest private holders of Zambia's bonds, holding \$220m. Some are worth almost half the value they were sold at. Eurobonds worth \$1bn that mature in 2024 plunged 6.3% last week to under 56% of their face value.

Debt Justice, formerly known as the Jubilee Debt Campaign, has estimated BlackRock could make 110% profit for itself and its clients from Zambia if debt interest payments are paid in full. The country has three main private sector bonds that pay an average 8.1% in interest.

The letter said: "Because of the high interest rates and the fact Zambia's bonds have been trading at well

below face value since 2018, many bondholders stand to make huge profits at the expense of both Zambian citizens and creditor countries if paid at face value.

"It is therefore imperative that BlackRock and other bondholders agree to fully engage in a large-scale debt restructuring, including significant haircuts, in order to make Zambia's debt sustainable."

Tim Jones, the charity's policy head, said the IMF loan gave the country some breathing space, but the \$8.4bn of interest payments due over the next couple of years should be "cancelled permanently, not rolled over to the 2030s to fuel another debt crisis next decade".

Chad and Ethiopia applied last year for debt relief under the G20's common framework, but Jones said negotiations have yet to get off the starting blocks. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have also asked for bailouts under IMF schemes to support countries devastated by the climate crisis.

Zambia, which has cut health and



social care spending by a fifth in the past two years to balance its budget, has seen its debts soar in recent years to fund infrastructure projects, many to help the country supplement drought-affected hydropower plants.

Solar energy projects have made the country almost self-sufficient in electricity, but the high cost of

borrowing, local corruption and the coronavirus crisis have crippled the country's finances.

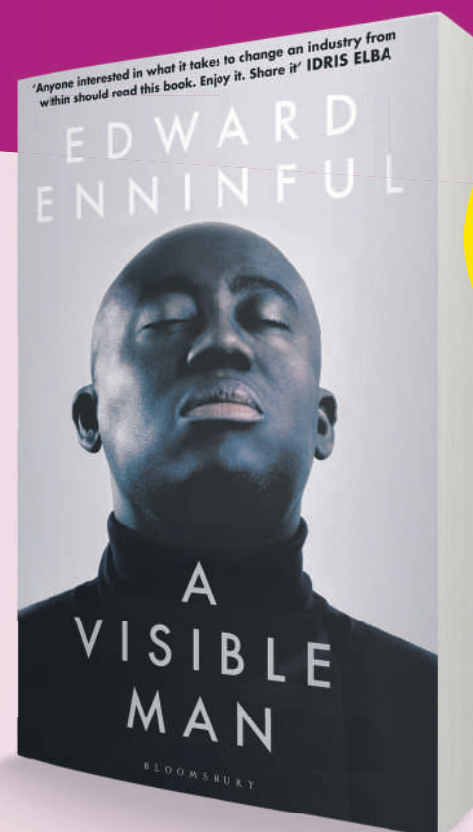
Further loans from the IMF have been tied to commitments to end consumer and business fuel subsidies, pushing inflation above 20% last year before it eased to 9.8% in August.

Of Zambia's external debt, 46%

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110%

Potential profit BlackRock could make for itself and its clients if Zambia's debt interest is paid in full

◀ *The streets of Zambia's capital, Lusaka, where the crisis has led to public spending being slashed*

PHOTOGRAPH: TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/AP

is owed to private lenders, 22% to China, 8% to other governments and 18% to multilateral institutions.

China is among the government lenders to agree a longer debt repayment schedule that private lenders, including banks, have so far resisted, Debt Justice said.

A BlackRock spokesperson said

it wanted “a sustainable long-term outcome for Zambia” but disputed the charity’s claim that it would profit from a rescheduling of debt interest payments, saying it was instead likely to make losses when the bond-holdings mature.

The spokesperson said: “We regard it as our obligation to play our part responsibly, alongside all other creditors, in ensuring there is a path towards a sustainable outcome for sovereign debt issuers in distress.

“As an asset manager, we are a fiduciary to our clients, people from all walks of life. The money we invest on their behalf is not our own and we are obligated to act in our clients’ best financial interests at all times.”

Jones said BlackRock was likely to have bought Zambian bonds at rock-bottom prices when it was clear the country was already in trouble.

BlackRock added that with Zambian bonds trading below their sale value and interest payments suspended since September 2020, “our clients have already experienced losses with respect to their holdings of private sector sovereign debt of Zambia”.

The groups campaigning for BlackRock and other private lenders to cancel the debt also include the Zambian Civil Society Debt Alliance, Global Justice Now, Action for Southern Africa, Christian Aid, Cafod and Jubilee Scotland.

Sharp rise in business insolvencies in England and Wales

Jasper Jolly

The number of English and Welsh companies declared insolvent jumped by 43% in August, according to government data, which adds to concerns for the UK economy.

There were 1,933 insolvencies in August, compared with 1,348 in the same month last year, the Insolvency Service said. This was also 42% above the level in August 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

Economists are concerned that businesses will struggle as consumers cut back on spending amid high inflation. The government has stepped in with an energy price freeze

1,933

Number of companies declared insolvent in England and Wales in August, up by 43% from July

750

Monthly low in insolvencies during the pandemic in February 2021, thanks to government support

to cushion the rise in the cost of gas and electricity, but the unit price paid by households this winter will still be well over double that of recent years.

At the same time, businesses face similar energy price pressures. The government has pledged “equivalent support” for six months, but details may not be available for several weeks.

Business groups have complained that delays to support are likely to force many more companies into insolvency as they cope with unavoidable soaring bills.

The prime minister, Liz Truss, and the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, are expected to reveal more details of their package to prevent the UK economy from shrinking in a “mini-budget” this Friday.

However, some economists have warned that a recession may be unavoidable. The Bank of England has predicted a long recession, albeit without taking into account the new government’s policies.

Kallum Pickering, a senior economist at Berenberg, an investment bank, said: “While the fixing of consumer energy prices, as well as possible near-term cuts to taxes, may soften the shock to real incomes, such measures may only dampen the downturn and not fully prevent it.”

Retail sales in the UK fell by more than expected in August, adding to concerns about the economy and driving the pound down to a 37-year low against the US dollar.

Some British companies had been protected by the government’s pandemic support, including the furlough and loan schemes, with corporate insolvencies in England and Wales at a pandemic low of less than 750 a month in February 2021.

Data for Scotland and Northern Ireland also showed a rise in corporate failures against recent months.

Fresh push for chip designer Arm to list in UK

Mark Sweney

The prime minister and the chancellor are preparing a fresh attempt to persuade Japan’s SoftBank to list the

Cambridge-based chip designer Arm on the London Stock Exchange.

Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng hope to revive talks with SoftBank, which reportedly halted plans to explore a UK listing after the political upheaval caused by Boris Johnson’s resignation as prime minister.

SoftBank has made no secret of its preference to list in the US, where valuations make New York the financial centre of choice for most of the world’s largest tech flotations. In February, Masayoshi Son, the chief executive of SoftBank, referred to

Nasdaq when detailing plans for a flotation of Arm after the collapse of a \$40bn (£34bn) takeover deal by its California-based rival Nvidia.

However, the government and LSE executives have continued to lobby SoftBank, which in June indicated London could still be in the running but was not the “main preference”.

The government is expected to push for at least a dual listing on both sides of the Atlantic, the Financial Times reported. Arm was part of the FTSE 100 before SoftBank bought it for £24bn in 2016 with a dual listing.

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Money

Student special

Budgeting is vital as the cost of living crisis bites

Those heading to university this year face tougher challenges than ever. **Laura Whateley** offers tips on making money go further

For many young people, going off to university is the first time they have had to properly manage their own finances. Ensuring that your money (in particular your maintenance loan cash) stretches as far as it needs to, so you've got enough for all the essentials and for the fun stuff such as freshers' week, is often a challenge. However, this year, because of the cost of living crisis, it could get seriously tough.

In July, a National Union of Students poll of more than 3,500 university students found that 11% were using food banks because they could not make ends meet - up from 5% in January. Meanwhile, the vast majority said they were cutting back as a result of soaring prices and bills.

"The cost of living crisis this year is set to make this gap between government support and living costs even higher, and the strain on students to save and make money is going to be the worst we've seen in years," says Jake Butler, a money expert at the website Save the Student.

"While I still hope the government will seriously consider the support available, there are things students can do in the meantime in order to keep themselves financially afloat during a difficult start to the university year."

Here are some of the important things to consider when it comes to getting yourself in the best possible place financially.

Budgeting - the top tips and tricks
"It may sound boring but setting a budget is the number one thing you should do if you're looking to survive financially at uni," Butler says.

You need to know what's coming in, including your total loan, any wages from part-time work and any

financial help you are getting from your family, and then set realistic limits on your outgoings - from bills and food to books and beer.

If you are not sure how much you are likely to spend on different things, there are some good online tools out there such as the Which? student budget calculator, which lets you put in your university and get an idea of average monthly living costs, broken down into lots of headings - from accommodation, transport and mobile phone and internet to food shopping and going out and eating out.

Your living costs could be slightly higher during the first term because of books and equipment you need to buy, items you have forgotten to bring and paying for freshers' week events.

Some experts say that the easiest way to keep track of your outgoings is to have more than one current account.

Start with a specialist student bank account to take advantage of the interest-free overdraft, which can be up to £3,000.

Some students will have already sorted one out but if you haven't yet, it is worth knowing that according to Save the Student's 2022 student banking survey, Santander is the most popular bank among students.

Many of the accounts come with freebies: for example, Santander offers a four-year 16-25 railcard allowing you to save a third on rail travel in Great Britain, while HSBC is offering £100 cash.

You could use this account for your loan and then set up a standing order (or manually siphon off smaller amounts on a regular basis) to channel money into a second bank account that you use for your day-to-day spending and bills.

It is so much easier to stick to a budget if you pay yourself, say, weekly rather than trying to work out how much you have got left while staring at a balance of perhaps thousands of pounds.

Meanwhile, if your favourite pub or student bar accepts cash, consider leaving the contactless card at home, as you will then only be able to spend what you have on you.



Tracking your spending Apps that can help

Some may feel that an app-based bank such as Monzo and Starling, where you can allocate your budget to different pots or spaces, is the best bet. You can even lock Monzo pots to add in a layer of friction. You will be able to add cash to the pot, but not withdraw it until the date you have set (perhaps the day your rent is due). You can disable the lock if you change your mind and need the money sooner, but it means you will think twice.

Meanwhile, HyperJar lets you sort your money in digital "jars". It offers a card that you can link to any jar, and lets you share jars and limit or block spending with shops.

Splitwise is an app designed to help groups keep track of spending and lending. It makes it easier to split the bill after dinner and could be used for bigger amounts, such as making sure all your housemates are up to date on paying for bills.

The Money Dashboard app may also be a good option for

students as it allows you to set up a budget quickly and link all of your accounts in one place.

However, there are lots of other budgeting and money apps on the market, including Plum and Emma. Plum says its budgeting features and bill comparison tools help keep costs down so people don't overspend. Emma offers similar features, allowing people to set budgets, track payments and so on.

It's worth comparing the different apps to make sure you're using the best one for you.



▲ Monzo lets users allocate their budget to different pots or spaces

Accommodation - the biggest cost

Accommodation is going to be your biggest expense while you are at university.

Most students opt to stay in university accommodation during their first year, and some unis have a dizzying array of options. However, it recently emerged that as a result of a range of factors, some new students are being forced to accept accommodation in neighbouring cities because their own university's student halls are full.

In terms of costs, Save the Student's 2022 accommodation survey found that the average weekly rent for uni accommodation was £147, while for private halls it was £151, and for a property that has a private landlord it was £153.

Meanwhile, the estate agent Knight Frank said last month that it looked at properties in 15 of the most popular student towns and cities, including Glasgow, Sheffield, Liverpool and Bristol, and found that in 80% of cases, the overall average cost for an individual in purpose-built student accommodation was lower than

Money hacks
How to cut down on plastic waste
Page 56

Fantasy house hunt
The best homes for sale in city centres
Page 57



▲ Using a contactless card can make it harder to stick to a budget than if you take cash out with you
PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN DIMITROV/GETTY

for a room in a shared house within the wider private rented sector marketed at students.

It is worth being aware that at many universities it has become common practice for first-year students to try to sort out their second-year accommodation during the first term.

Meanwhile, some students concerned about the cost of accommodation are finding it is actually cheaper to book a night in a budget hotel.

MoneySuperMarket crunched the numbers and worked out that if you don't have to be on campus every day, you could be better-off booking two or three nights a week in a cheap hotel than paying for halls. For example, Travelodge boasts of "rooms for £32 or less".

Jo Thornhill, a money expert at MoneySuperMarket, says: "Looking at the average cost of student accommodation in comparison to average

Energy bills
Beware going over your limits

Liz Truss may have promised to freeze energy bills at an average of £2,500 a year, but many students - or their parents - could still be hit with surprise extra bills for going over their limits.

If you, or your offspring, are renting student accommodation with bills included, read the small print very carefully, and if in any doubt, ask, as it might not be quite as good a deal as it seems.

Many students will be unaware that in most agreements with student letting agents, the energy included is typically subject to a "fair use" policy - basically a cap or allowance - that is often based not on units of energy consumed but on sums of money spent.

For example, it might be that with a shared house, each student is allocated, say, £350 for gas and electricity for the year, with anything extra going on the tenants' account.

These sums, which may have seemed generous in the past, are being rapidly eclipsed by the rising price of gas and electricity.

Many agents that supply student housing publish their fair usage policies online, though you need to check if recent events mean the allowance has got better or worse. Examples we found included a maximum amount of £3,600 for a household of nine tenants in Manchester, and an agent covering Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol that had a fair use policy of just shy of £1,800 for three tenants. The £350 allowance for each person highlighted above was a letting agent in Liverpool.



The government's £2,500 figure for the bill freeze is based on a "typical" household on a dual-fuel deal with "median consumption". For bigger properties and households, it could be a lot more.

Students, who often cook, do washing or heat their rooms separately, may consume much more - and that could mean they, or their parents, facing a "bill shock" blow further down the line.

Sophie Lang, a regional executive for Propertymark, the property agent membership body, says that agents "should be alerting tenants to the small print of their contracts and what it could mean for students ... These tenancies were agreed months ago."

Victoria Tolmie-Loverseed, of the student housing charity

Unipol Student Homes, says there is no legal obligation for agents or landlords to update their fair usage policies to reflect changing prices.

She recommends that students read their tenancy agreement carefully and "get advice on anything you do not understand. If you have obligations to pay for energy over a certain threshold, make sure to record regular meter readings and ask the landlord about what it will cost. In a shared house, housemates need to communicate and work together to manage this, and budget together for any excess payments required".

▲ Students should check their contracts to find out if there are caps on the energy use that is included
PHOTOGRAPH: MARIIA BOIKO/ALAMY

Travelodge prices, there are some savings to be made for those students who aren't required to be physically present at their university campus every day."

She says the site found that one of the most financially rewarding regions for switching to hotel accommodation was London, and adds that students in the capital with five or fewer days at university may well be better off paying for a hotel than student accommodation.

Always ask for a discount

As a student you rarely have to pay the full price. Halls often have broadband included but if not, search for a student deal with a



▲ Spotify Premium is on offer free for three months, then at a discount

rolling or shorter contract. Virgin Media, for example, offers cheaper packages for those with an .ac.uk email address.

Students get Spotify Premium free for three months, then pay £5.99 a month rather than £9.99. You can get a free six-month trial of Amazon Prime Student, and then pay £4.49 a month.

Providers such as EE and O2 offer students 20% off mobile contracts. Students can sign up for Office 365 Education for free.

Meanwhile, you don't have to pay council tax if your property is occupied by full-time students.

You do need to pay for a TV licence but if you stick to streaming on your laptop, you can avoid it.

Sign up to sites including UNiDAYS and Student Beans, which list dozens of deals. For example, UNiDAYS' offers include £10 off a £75 Ikea spend, while Student Beans' deals include a 15% discount off full-price items at Asos.

The Totum card (the new name for the NUS extra student discount card) boasts hundreds of offers. If you have a local Co-op Food, it will let you get a 10% student discount in-store. Simply

show your card at participating stores when at the till.

Carry your student ID and ask everywhere you shop - they may not advertise the discount widely, so it is worth checking at the till. This includes entertainment venues. Many theatres offer bargain tickets for students: seats for £5 or £10 are not uncommon.

You can also get friends and family to collect cashback to support you. The Funds4Uni scheme lets you earn free cashback towards university costs when you (and several members of your family) shop online at thousands of sites including Amazon, Trainline and John Lewis.

Seek out cut-price groceries

Download apps such as Olio and Too Good To Go to hunt out food that local people, or businesses, cafes and restaurants, sell cheap or give away in your area.

It might be anything from fancy sandwiches nearing their sell-by date that can no longer be sold, to a glut of green beans from a neighbour's allotment, or the

Graduates' tips
'Set a budget each week'

Kenzie Bennett, who recently graduated with a law degree from the University of Sheffield, says: "My university held sales for kitchen utensils that had been left behind by the previous campus tenants.

"They were selling pots and pans for as little as £2.50. If you can find a sale like that at your university, definitely attend, especially if you're an international student and can't transport kitchen utensils to uni before you start."

She adds: "Textbooks are expensive, but a lot of universities have online copies on their library site.

"Only buy textbooks if you really need them and the book will transfer over multiple subjects. If you do need to buy a textbook, have a look and see if the previous edition works for you - they're much cheaper. Use Google Books and Google Scholar for specific chapters of books and textbooks."

Ayesha Shakeel, a recent graduate of City, University of London, says: "Collect as many coupons for food as you can from university in the induction week. During induction and university open days, there's lots of freebies - freshers should aim to get as many as possible, so when they are short on cash, they don't sleep hungry."

She adds that "apps such as UNiDAYS and Student Beans have great discounts".

Ellie-Mae Smith, who graduated from Bangor University this year with a degree in marine environmental studies, says freshers should prioritise setting a budget.

"I'd suggest setting a budget each week, depending on what your loan is, and only spend money out of that in terms of grocery shopping weekly, with personal treats such as clothing and clubbing coming out of external funds - and, on that note, to get a part-time job where possible, as the money comes in handy," she adds.

"I'd also suggest trying to find ways of finding 'wanted items' such as clothing for cheaper prices, such as secondhand or charity shops or even clothes swaps between flats and friendship groups."



▲ Vintage stores are great for clothes - and some offer student discounts

Money Student special

Continued Page 53

contents of their fridge that would otherwise go to waste because they are off on holiday.

Other useful apps include Shopmium and CheckoutSmart, where you take a picture of your supermarket receipts in return for cashback. Occasionally, this is as much as 100% on special items, so you might get lucky with free ice-cream or a tube of Pringles.

Trolley.co.uk is a supermarket comparison app that allows users to check which shops have the lowest prices. You can sign up for live discount alerts when prices change, compare prices across chains, and organise your shopping list by where is cheapest.

When you are at the supermarket, pick up yellow-stickered items, then make good use of your freezer.

The BigOven app has a “use up leftovers” function that could help students trying to be thrifty with their supermarket shopping. Users



can enter up to three ingredients, and the app will recommend recipes based on those foods. That allows you to use up the odds and ends left in your fridge before they go off.

Before stocking up on any kitchen equipment, plates, bowls, etc that you might need and which are not already there, find out if

your hall-mates want to share. There are only so many cheese graters one kitchen needs.

Meanwhile, nights out are a big part of the university experience for many students but costs can quickly mount. The Dusk app, which operates in London, Brighton, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, lets you earn points

◀ Comparison apps are available that can check which supermarkets have the best deals on certain items
PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW HORWOOD/GETTY

to be traded in for free drinks and other discounts.

Search for extra financial support

Most universities offer hardship funds for students who need additional financial support. Some of these are loans but often you can be given money you won't have to pay back. Never suffer in silence.

“I'd always recommend getting in touch with your university if you're in serious financial trouble,” Butler says. “They are harder to come by than they should be but there is funding out there that's in place to help those most in need.”

There are also scholarships, bursaries and grants available from everyone from charities and special interest groups to employers and professional bodies looking to attract smart graduates.

Courtney Sheppard, the head of customer contact at Ucas, says:

“There are different eligibility criteria based on your course, your university or your personal circumstances, so it is worth doing some research. You may find out you are eligible for something you didn't expect.”

Funding may be based on need but some scholarships or bursaries are about rewarding academic ability, or excellence in another area, such as music or the arts, or targeted at students from particular regions, backgrounds or marginalised groups. For example, at the University of Roehampton, up to 20 cash scholarships of £1,500 a year are available to those who demonstrate aptitude in esports (AKA competitive video gaming).

Turn2us (a charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to charitable grants and other help), the Scholarship Hub and Ucas are all useful resources, as well as your university.

Additional reporting by Jess Clark

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Consumer champions Zoe Wood

I fear rejection if I reapply for a John Lewis card

I have had a John Lewis card since the 1980s – first when it was a store card and then, when it changed, a credit card.

It is my go-to method of payment, both in and out of store, and I pay off the entire balance every month. I've been doing so for the past 40 years.

But, as a result of the company changing its lender, it is asking holders to reapply and I'm concerned my application will be turned down.

My sister-in-law, who is retired and a longtime card holder, was rejected and the Trustpilot site is full of horror stories about applications being turned down, or spending limits cut.

Last year, I gave up a job with a six-figure income, sold my home and moved out of London. I am two years below state pension age, but have ordered my finances so my spending power is greater than my thirtysomething daughters.

If I apply, and am rejected, will it affect my credit rating?
TM, Eastbourne

Your letter is one of a number from John Lewis card holders who have encountered problems as it switches lender from HSBC to NewDay – a process that requires customers to reapply and submit to a credit check.

You were so concerned a failed application would lower your credit score you have decided not to apply.

However, it would have been fine to go through the initial eligibility check which would have told you the likely outcome of the application. It involves a “soft search” and would not have had an impact on your credit score.

If you passed this hurdle, and



▲ John Lewis has switched its credit card provider from HSBC to NewDay

proceeded to the full application, at this point a “hard search” would show up on your credit file.

John Lewis says NewDay has a regulatory obligation to assess each customer's creditworthiness and says 96% of those who have applied to date have been accepted.

Social media and press reports tell a different story as previously high-spending customers rage at being turned down or given tiny spending limits.

Other readers were angry that applications are online and require a mobile phone for security purposes. They also question the decision to stop accepting payment by cheque or over the counter.

John Lewis says using a mobile for authentication purposes protects customers from fraud, and the decision to stop accepting the other payment methods is because of a lack of demand.

Money is running out to buy our Fairtrade products

I am the administrator for a Fairtrade stall run weekly by our branch of Churches Together.

We buy Fairtrade products on 30 days' credit from Traidcraft and sell them on our stall and to other local churches.

Some months ago, we decided to transfer the bank account from Santander, which has not had a

branch in Thornbury for many years, to Lloyds, which will soon be the only one in the town.

The last transactions were on 4 July and the Lloyds account was open and accepting cash payments from 10 August. But Santander has still not transferred our balance of £438 to the new account.

Traidcraft gave me extended credit and I was able to settle our July bill out of our sales. However, we have just under £200 in our new account and this will not cover our August bill of £314.

We have undergone exhaustive questioning to satisfy Santander, with some of the names dredged up of people who died 20 years ago. We have never had an annual turnover of more than £3,000.

We've had long phone conversations with Santander but can't seem to make any progress.
RP, Thornbury

Thankfully, we have been able to resolve this.

Foot-dragging Santander says that, in order to comply with anti-money laundering regulations, it had to ensure the information it holds is accurate and up-to-date.

However, it adds: “We're sorry that, in this case, we didn't progress the closure of the account as soon as the customer asked us to do so. We have closed the account, transferred the funds out, and will provide £250 compensation for the delay and inconvenience.”

You will donate this to Traidcraft Exchange, which directly supports the communities of fair trade producers.

We welcome letters but cannot answer individually. Email consumer.champions@theguardian.com or write to Guardian, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Include a phone number. Letters are subject to our terms: gu.com/letters-terms

Technology

Gadgets to help you get the most out of university

With students' finances overstretched, it's important to get the right tech at the right price. **Samuel Gibbs** picks some of the best deals

The end of the summer is here and, with it, the start of a new semester at university. The landscape of learning certainly looks brighter than it has for the last couple of years, but the need to have the right gear is just as big, with many universities offering a mix of in-person and online learning.

From laptops and phones to headphones and note-taking tools, here's a guide to some of the tech that will help make the most of the student experience at a time of stretched finances.

Laptops

Most work ends up being done with a laptop, so getting the right machine makes student life that little bit easier.

Portability and screen size are key tradeoffs. The bigger the screen, the easier it is to work on, but the heavier it will be to lug between lectures.

I recommend a 13in to 14in screen as a happy medium, but if you are frequently going to be plugging into a monitor, a smaller machine might be preferable. Make sure the display is at least 1080p in resolution.

Look for the 11th, or the latest 12th generation Intel i5 or i7

processors, at least 8GB of RAM, and 128GB or more of SSD storage.

Don't be tempted by the cheaper price, or larger storage of a laptop with a traditional magnetic hard drive as it will be slow.

Generally, you can get a solid Windows 11 laptop for about £500-600. Be aware that, at this price, you will sacrifice typing and mousing experience, screen, speaker and webcam quality, and probably battery life, too.

Of those usually on offer for £550 or so, the **Acer Aspire 5**, **HP Pavilion 14** and **Dell Inspiron 14** are worth considering with the right spec.

But my pick for a sub-£600 portable machine would be the **Microsoft Surface Laptop Go 2** at about £566 with student discount.

If you have a bigger budget, and want a better screen, keyboard, trackpad, speakers and performance, my pick under £1,000 is the tremendous **Apple M1 MacBook Air** at £898 with a student discount, which has a 16-hour battery life.

If you need Windows, the **Microsoft Surface Laptop 4** at £849 with student discount is very good.

Smartphones

The good news is that great smartphones can be had for well under £500.

The recently released **Google Pixel 6a** is the best budget phone of the year, costing £360 with student discount. It beats many phones double its price, with top performance, a great camera and superb software, including the excellent auto-transcribing Google Recorder app.



Alternatively, the **iPhone SE 2022**, at about £419, is equally good value if you are within Apple's ecosystem. It looks dated, but has top performance and will last up to seven years with software updates.

Tablets

If you can stretch to it, a tablet can also be a very useful addition to your computing armoury, offering utility for learning and entertainment.

Apple's basic **iPad**, for instance, costs £319, or less with student discount, and has a good 10.2in screen, which can be used for note-taking with an Apple Pencil (£85) or as a portable second screen for a Mac when you need a second monitor on the go.

There are lots of educational and productivity apps available for it, as well as a keyboard case if you would like to use it as a small substitute for a laptop. With all the video or music-streaming services available, it makes a great portable TV, too.

Amazon's budget-conscious **Fire** tablets, costing from £60, offer the entertainment options, but aren't good for productivity.

Samsung's **Galaxy Tab A8**, from £219, is more useful, but lacks stylus support and the multitude of productivity and education apps available for the iPad.

Headphones

Concentrating in the hubbub of a busy library, cafe or student house can be hard without a good set of headphones to block out the noise.

◀ *Useful tech includes the Apple MacBook Air, Google Pixel 6a, the OneNote app and the Nothing Ear 1*

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY

noise, relying, instead, on simply drowning it out. They are excellent for calls and can be had for about £180; but watch out for fakes.

If focus is your priority, you can't beat a large set of over-ear noise-cancelling headphones.

My top pick is the older **Sony WH-1000XM4**, which are still excellent at blocking out most noise and sound fantastic. They connect to your laptop and phone at the same time, fold up nicely for travel and are pretty robust. Shop around, and you can often find them for well under £250.

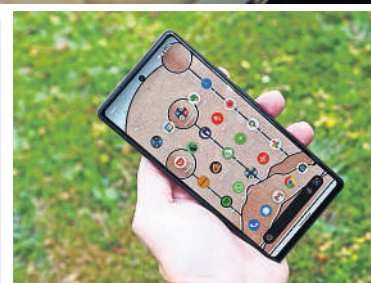
Note-taking apps

Keeping your digital notes, lectures and ideas organised and easily accessible on the go, can be tricky, but, thankfully, there are many tools that can help.

I'm a longtime fan of **Evernote** as a cross-platform tool for collecting notes, images, audio recordings and practically anything else in one cloud-syncable place, with apps for almost any device. It is free for up to two devices, such as your phone and laptop, with 60MB of monthly uploads, which will be fine for text notes and the odd photo. Evernote Personal costs £5.99 a month, or students get 40-50% off a yearly subscription.

Microsoft's **OneNote** is an excellent alternative, with similar features and apps on most devices. It is free to use, but notes are stored in OneDrive, which comes free with a Microsoft account with 5GB of space. More OneDrive storage costs £1.99 a month for 100GB of space, or it can be bought with a Microsoft 365 account starting at £59.99, which includes 1TB of storage as well as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook apps.

Apple's **Notes** is also very good, particularly for handwritten notes on an iPad, but is not cross-platform and cannot handle quite as many file attachments or advanced features. It is free to use on iPhones, iPads, Macs and in the browser, but uses your free 5GB of iCloud storage space, with 50GB costing 79p a month.



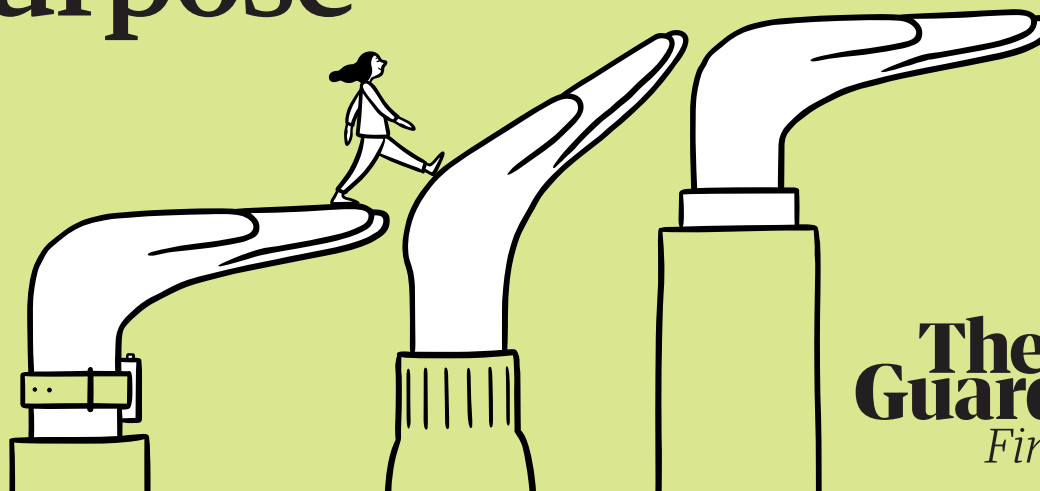
Wireless earbuds are great for listening on the go. **Nothing's Ear 1** are noise-cancelling, sound good, last a long time on battery, and have a funky transparent design that's comfortable to wear. They work with Androids or iPhones, as well as laptops, and cost about £89.

Apple's **AirPods 3** are good, too, but they do not block out

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ILLUSTRATION BY JAMIE WIGNALL

habit where you always keep a bag in your handbag, pushchair or car boot may help break the cycle.

Find out where to refill

When City to Sea's refill campaign began, its research showed that one in five people routinely carried a refillable water bottle. In 2020, that had increased to one in two people.

The campaign started as an attempt to reduce the number of plastic bottles used each year (about 13bn a year were used in the UK in 2017, 7.7bn of which were water bottles).

The organisation's research showed that one key driver for buying bottled water was people not knowing whether, and where, they could refill a reusable bottle.

The campaign began with cafes, pubs and shops in Bristol putting stickers in their windows to let passersby know they could come in and ask for a free water top-up, but has since evolved into an app covering 135 countries and translated into nine languages.

There are discounts to be had, too. Starbucks, for example, offers a 25p discount if you bring your own cup. Pret a Manger trumps them with 50p, while Costa offers extra loyalty reward points when customers bring refillable cups.

In the workplace

People buying takeaway lunches were responsible for about 10.7bn items of single-use plastic waste in 2019. "An easy way to reduce it, and also to save money, is to bring food from home," says Anna Leitner, a campaigner for resources and supply chain at Global 2000, an Austrian environmental organisation. "Make an extra portion the night before and take it into work in a lunchbox."

Failing that, pick up your takeaway in a reusable box.

"In our office we have a cardboard box by the door full of Tupperware containers," Hynd says.

"When people go out to buy their lunch, they grab one and take it with them to get their salad, or soup, or whatever it is they're buying. Then they wash it and put it back in the box."

'Focus on what you can do, rather than on what you can't'

Wendy Graham
Moral Fibres eco blog

Beauty and bath plastics

"The easiest and most obvious change is to switch from squirry hand soap in bottles to bars of soap. You can get supermarket own-brand soap cheaply, sold in a cardboard box.

"The next step up is swapping out bottled shampoo for shampoo bars as well," Hynd says.

For beauty products, adopting a "use it up first" mantra is the easiest and most cost-effective thing to do, Graham says.

"If you have a cupboard or drawer full of products, aim to use them before buying anything new."

Plastic-free periods

An average pack of sanitary towels contains as much plastic as five carrier bags, according to Natracare, a maker of "plastic-free" period products, while tampons are often wrapped in plastic, have a plastic applicator and even contain plastic in the absorbent elements and the string.

Switching to reusable menstrual products will reduce plastic waste by as much as 99%, and save money, too, Leitner says.

"You can get a menstrual cup for as little as £10, and it will last up to 10 years - in comparison, women spend an average of £100 a year on disposable hygiene products."

The website Hey Girls sells menstrual cups for £10.40 (and other non-plastic period products), while Mooncups cost £20.95 (£1 of which goes to City to Sea).

In the garden

"Plant pots are probably the biggest plastic problem," says Alys Fowler, the author of *The Thrifty Gardener*.

"A lot are quite well-made, so it's about keeping and reusing them, washing them and stacking them properly."

Money hacks How to cut down on plastic waste

Sandra Haurant

Assess the problem

Steve Hynd, at the environmental non-profit organisation City to Sea, says: "Keep all of the plastic you use in one week, and then make changes based on what you use the most. For different households, different things might pop up."

Cut down in the kitchen

Wendy Graham, the author of the Moral Fibres eco blog, says: "The kitchen is the hardest room in the house to reduce reliance on single-

use plastic. Supermarkets don't do nearly enough to reduce their plastic packaging, and, in many cases, buying plastic-free food isn't affordable, or accessible."

Rather than thinking of cutting plastic use as an "all-or-nothing" exercise, Graham says: "Focus on what you can do, rather than what you can't."

Changing a few habits can help. "We don't use clingfilm. Instead, we use old Tupperware tubs to store food, or cover it with plates or pan lids. We don't buy plastic-wrapped kitchen roll either. Instead, I keep a basket of reusable cloths for mopping up spills. These are plain old cotton cloths, or old T-shirts," she says.

Remember your bag

The 5p charge on single-use plastic shopping bags introduced in 2015 has helped cut their use by as much as 97%. However, in 2019, the Environmental Investigation Agency and Greenpeace said supermarkets had sold 1.58bn "bags for life" - equivalent to 57 a household in the UK, more than a bag a week.

"People get to the supermarket and think: 'Oh, I haven't got my bag with me. I'll just buy one of these bags for life, and it'll be really useful because then I'll have it next time,'" Hynd says.

Except, of course, the next time the same thing happens. Forming a

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◀ **Soho, London**

£4.25m

Like the rest of the Georgian properties on Meard Street, this Grade II-listed terrace house was developed by John Meard Jr, the master carpenter who worked with Sir Christopher Wren at St Paul's Cathedral. It covers five floors with four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a south-east-facing terrace and patio garden. Wooden floors run throughout, with three sash windows in the living room overlooking the street, and panelled walls in the study. By contrast, the kitchen is industrial-modern. It is a short walk to popular Soho haunts. *Beauchamp Estates, 020 7722 9793*



▲ **Bermondsey, London**

£650,000

This flat belongs to the postwar era of “make do and mend”. Built in the 1950s, the building was once the Blue Lion Shirt Company's factory and is now apartments above offices on the ground floor. The one-bedroom property, on the first floor, retains the industrial feel with Crittall windows defining the facade. It is around the corner from the buzzing Bermondsey Street. *The Modern House, 020 3795 5920*

▼ **Manchester**

£550,000

On the 12th floor of an apartment block in the Leftbank scheme - a £1.5bn development carved out of Manchester city centre in the 2000s - is this two-bedroom property. A 24/7 concierge service and parking space are included. The EPC rating is B. But the main selling point is the large balcony looking out over the water and across the urbscape of the northern half of the city. *Savills, 0161 711 0990*

Fantasy house hunt
Homes for sale in city centres

Compiled by Anna White

► **Newcastle**

£550,000

Grey Street is a gentle curve of sandy-coloured neoclassical buildings that once housed the city's financial institutions. It was the centrepiece of the 1830s town plan and, in 1838, the statue of the former prime minister Earl Grey was erected at the north end. Today it links the quayside to the main shopping district, and old banks are now restaurants and bars. On the top two floors of the Grade II-listed Central Exchange is a three-bedroom penthouse with deep windows overlooking the street. It covers 142 sq metres (1,528 sq ft). *Sanderson Young, 0191 213 0033*



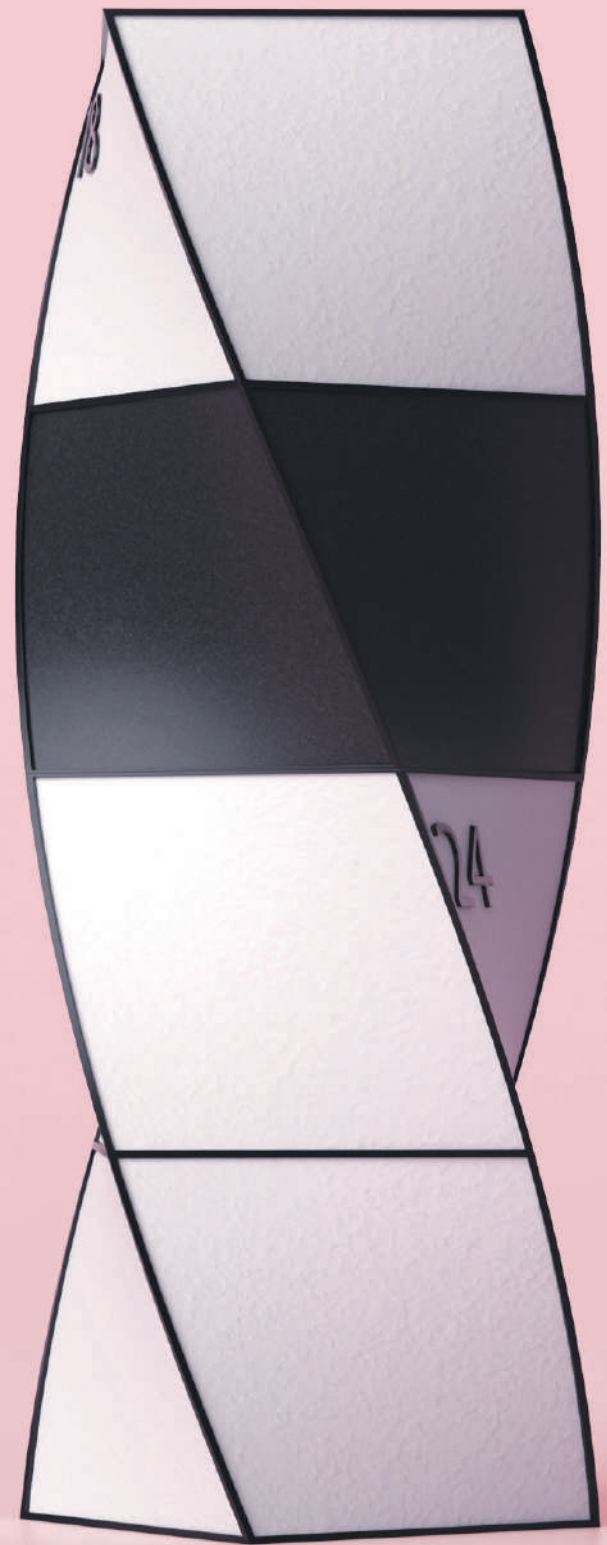
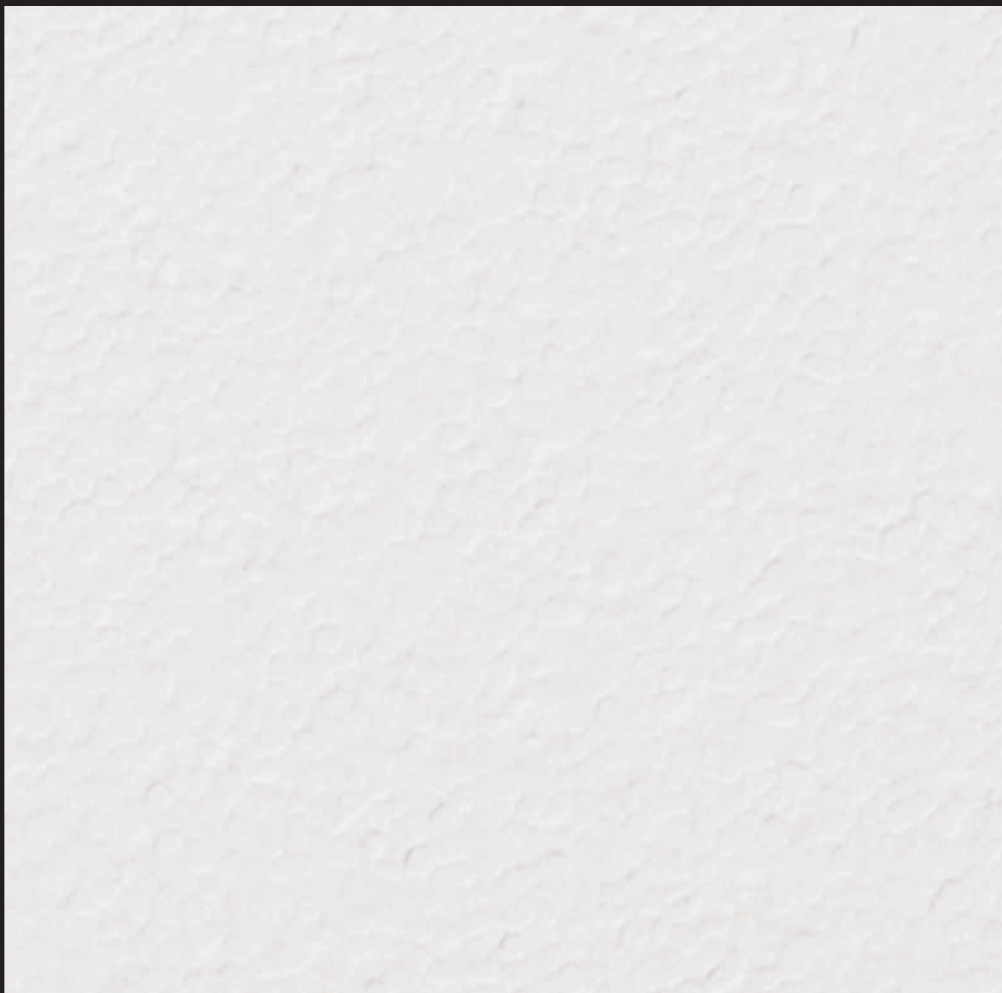
◀ **Bristol**

£840,000

This curved duplex apartment, in harbourside Capricorn Place, hangs out over the canal with two balconies. One is from the open-plan sitting/dining room where a fully glazed door leads on to the glass balcony and out across the harbour. The apartment is on the ground and first floor, which houses the two en-suite bedrooms; the master bedroom has its own balcony. It has an EPC rating of C and covers 141 sq metres (1,517 sq ft). There is a lift down to a secure parking bay. The city centre is within walking distance, while Clifton Village is just a mile away. *Knight Frank, 0117 317 1996*



Wind yourself up

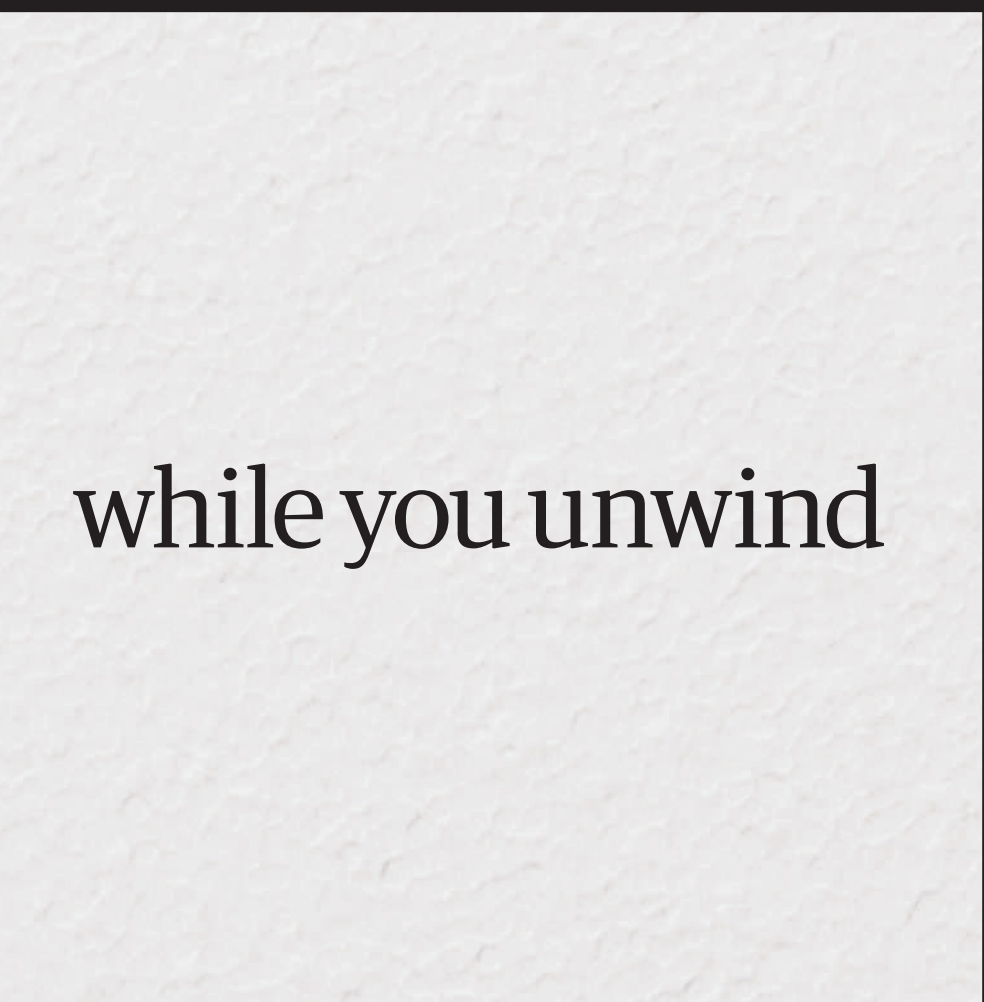


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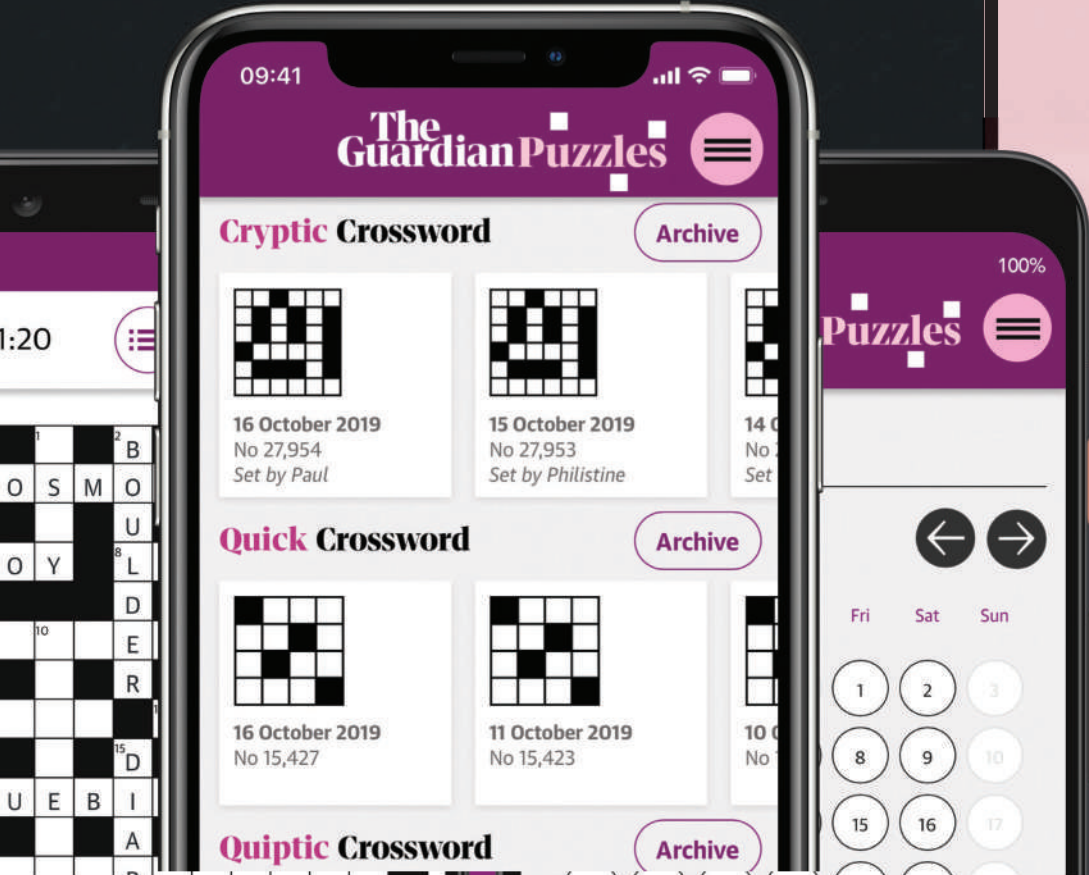
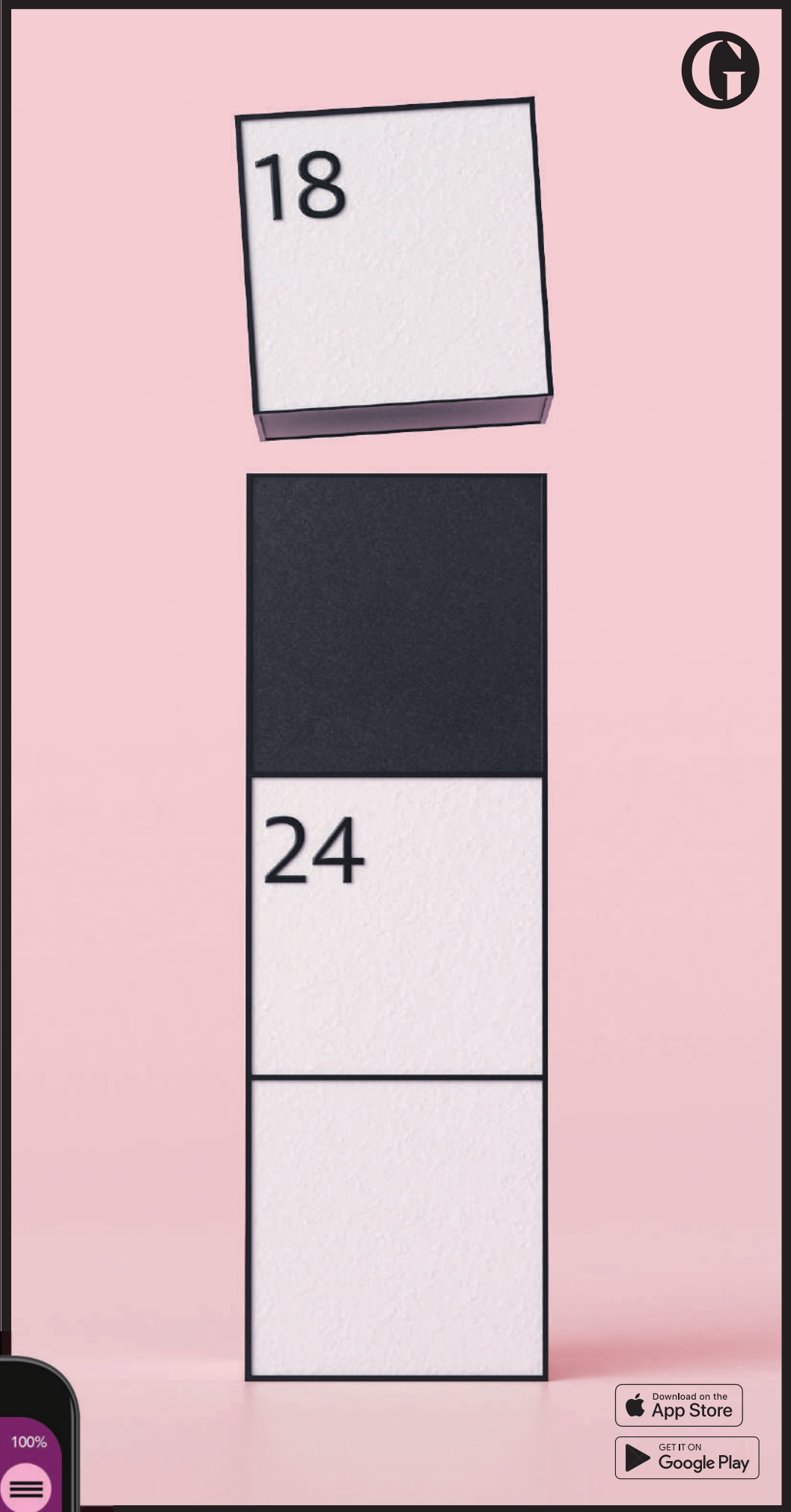
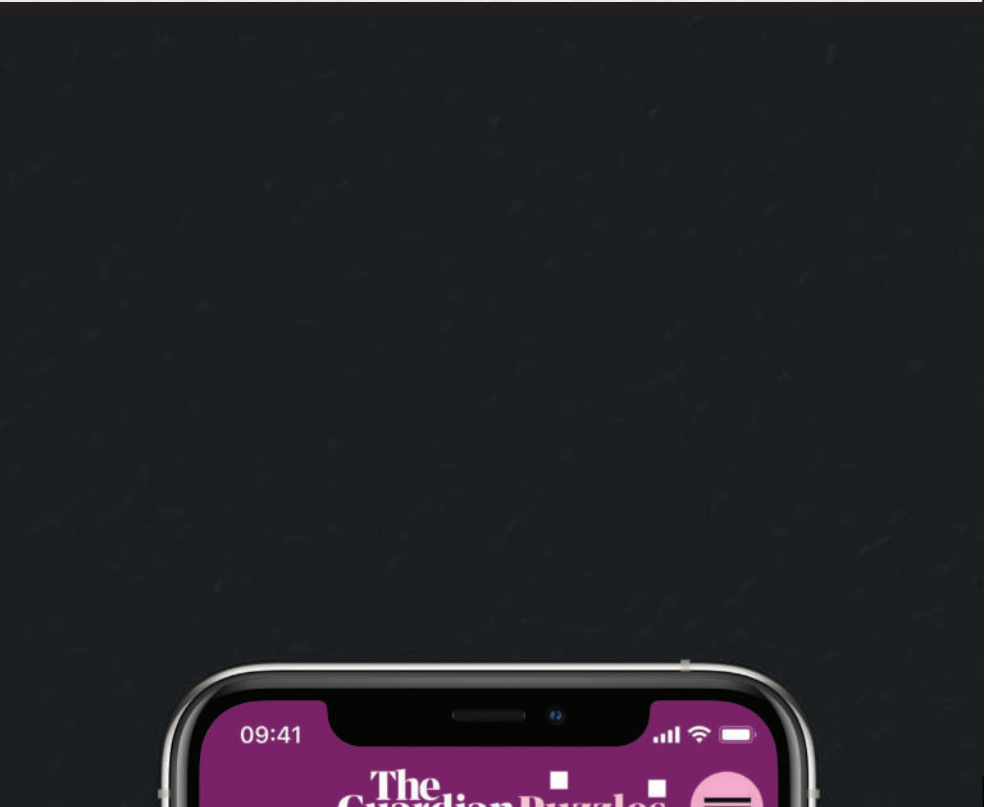
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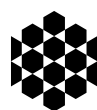
while you unwind



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NON-JUDICIAL MEMBERS HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE REDRESS BOARD

The HIA Inquiry Report (Hart Report) was published on 20 January 2017.

One of the substantial and overarching recommendations made relates to the establishment of a Redress Board to consider entitlement to compensation for children who were resident in certain institutions in Northern Ireland. The detail around the responsibilities of the Redress Board make it clear that applications for compensation will be determined on behalf of the Redress Board by a panel consisting of one judicial and two non-judicial members.

As these posts are for non-judicial members, those who are legally qualified or have worked in any institution within the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Childhood Abuse between 1922 and 1995 inclusive are ineligible to apply.

In order to apply you must have a professional qualification in health and social care and/or experience in the delivery of services in trauma-related services.

Eligible candidates must also have experience of working with and understanding of the concerns and needs of victims and survivors of historical childhood abuse along with skills in the following areas: effective communications; collaborating and

influencing and assessing information, analytical thinking and effective decision making on challenging issues.

A daily rate of £435.00 will be paid in respect of each panel sitting, at which up to 4 applications for redress will be considered. Subject to the workload of the Redress Board, panel members are expected to be available to sit a minimum of six days each calendar month. Redress Board members are appointed for a period of up to 5 years.

Equality of Opportunity

We are committed to providing equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all suitably qualified people irrespective of gender, age, marital status, disability, religious belief, ethnic origin, political origin, sexual orientation or whether or not you have dependents. Applications are also welcome from individuals irrespective of gender identity, including those who are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment.

We particularly welcome applications from women, people with a disability, young people and those from ethnic minorities, as these are currently under-represented on public bodies. Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the needs of applicants with a disability and the principles of the

Guaranteed Interview Scheme will be applied for such applicants.

Further information and application form:

For more detailed information and how to apply, please go to **www.nicsrecruitment.org.uk**

Alternatively, an application pack can be requested by contacting:

HRConnect, PO Box 1089, 2nd Floor, Beacon House, 27 Clarendon Road, Belfast, BT1 9BG. Telephone: 0800 1 300 330. Email: recruitment@hrconnect.nigov.net

All requests must include your name, address and reference number IRC267680.

Candidate Information Packs and Application Forms may be provided in alternative formats by contacting HR Connect. Applicants invited for interview will not be eligible for re-imbursement of travelling expenses.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2022.**

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.



Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Public Appointments

**The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
8 x Authority Members (RQIA 1/22)**

The Department of Health is seeking to appoint 8 Authority Members to The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA). Applications are invited from those with 'lived experience' of the health and social care system; and /or with a professional knowledge and background in law, medicine, nursing, social work, financial management, digital transformation, and human rights.

The position of Authority Member offers an exceptional opportunity for you to play a key role in helping to shape and drive the delivery of essential health and social care services and to make a positive difference to the lives of people in Northern Ireland.

It is expected that the successful candidates will take up post by the end of January 2023.

The Department is committed to the principles of public appointments based on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process. It is committed to providing equality of opportunity and welcomes applications regardless of gender, age, marital status, disability, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, sexual orientation or whether or not you have dependents.

A Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS) will operate for those applicants who have declared a disability. Further information on the GIS is included in the Information Booklet.

Essential Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate on their application form how they meet the following essential criteria:

Relevant Knowledge & Experience; Change Management; Corporate Governance; and Collaborative Working.

Time Commitment: 2-3 days per month; **Remuneration**: £6,406 per annum; the period of appointment will be for a period not longer than 4 years;

Further information and an application form are available at:-

Visit: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/public-appointments-current-vacancies>

E-mail: public.appointments@health-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9076 5793 or 02890 522951 (Monday – Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm)

Write to: DoH Public Appointments, Room 16, Annexe 1, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SQ.

Closing Date

The deadline for receipt of applications is 12:00 noon BST on Tuesday 27 September 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.

Information booklets and application forms can be provided in alternative formats and applicants who require assistance will be facilitated on request. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic circumstances, it may not be possible to conduct interviews on a face-to-face basis, interviews may be conducted remotely.

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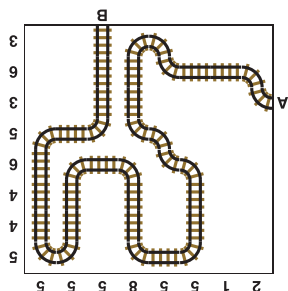


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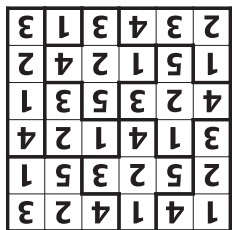
Puzzles

Solutions



Train tracks

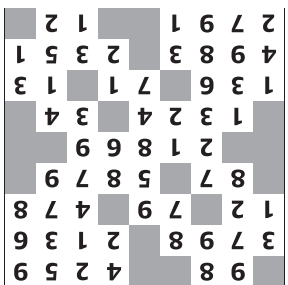
ALLOWABLE
Word wheel



နာမဂ္ဂ



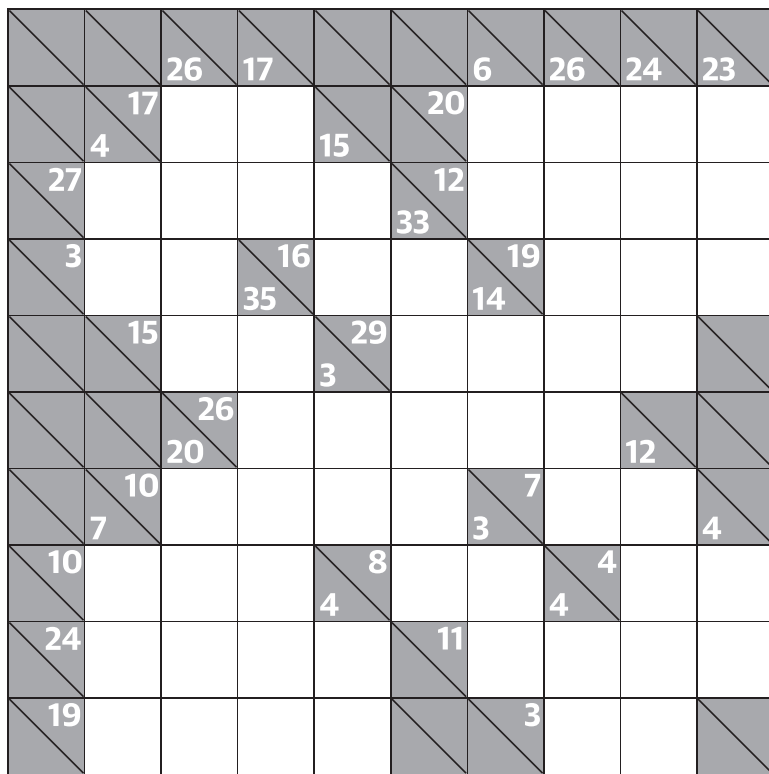
Code word



Kakuro

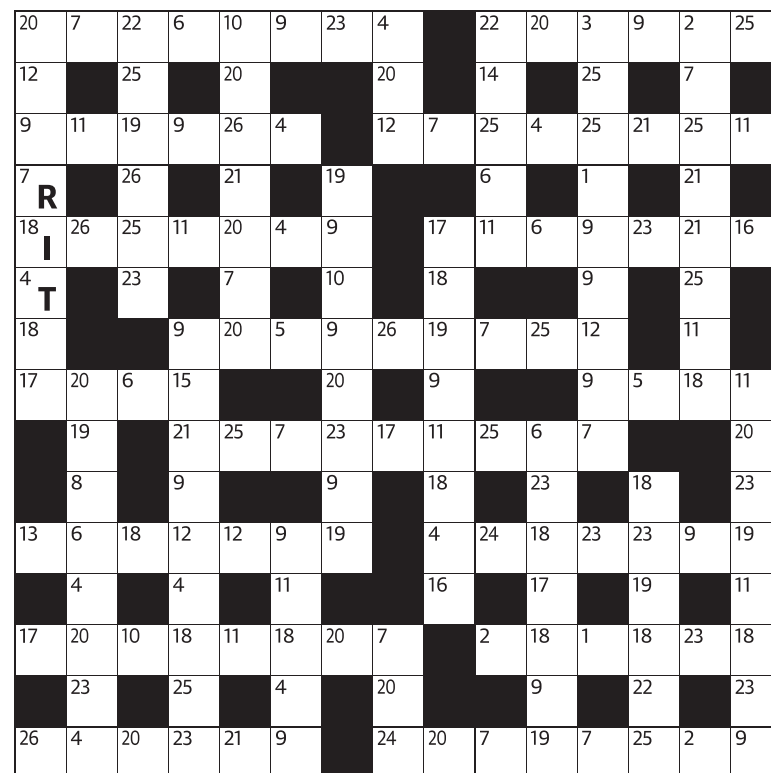
Kakuro

Fill the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it. You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same number twice in a block.

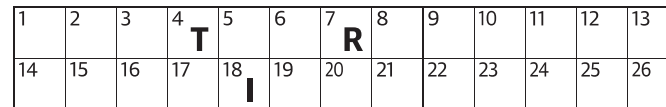


Codeword

Crack the code to fill in the crossword grid. Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. A number of letters have been decoded to help with the identification of other letters and words in the grid.

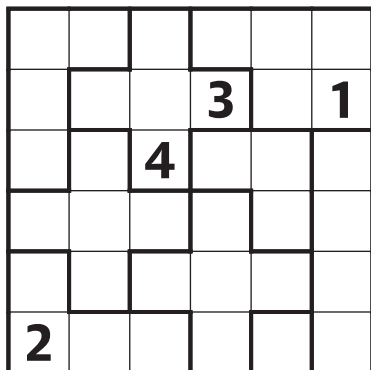


A B C D E F G H ~~I~~ J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S ~~T~~ U V W X Y Z



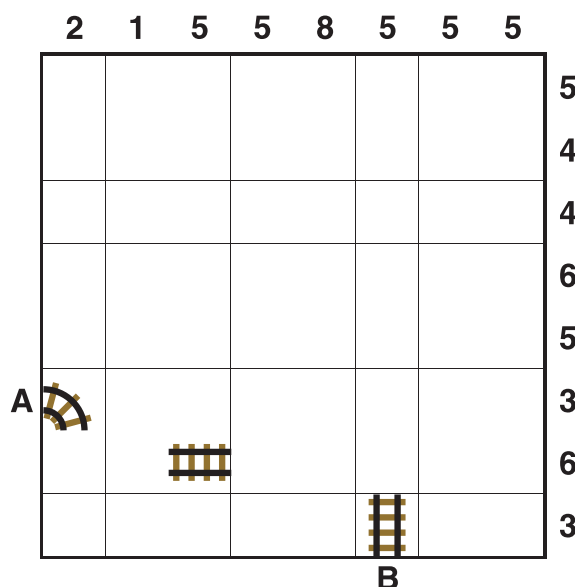
Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.



Train tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

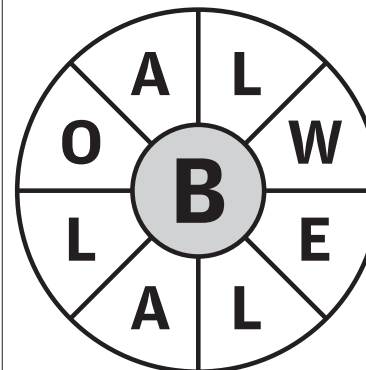


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Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-17. Good-14. Average-10.



Puzzles

Quick crossword No 16,338

- Across
- 1

Magical power (4)
- 3

Scar (8)
- 8

Quiet period (before the storm?) (4)
- 9

Bulgarian monetary unit – Aston kit (anag) (8)
- 11

Over-fastidious (10)
- 14

Hose spout (6)
- 15

Give back (6)
- 17

Popular battered food (piscine digit?) (4,6)
- 20

Execute by strangulation (8)
- 21

Person lacking resolution (4)
- 22

Salad sauce (8)
- 23

Group of cattle (4)

Down

1

Proverbially still water (8)

2

Curry made with meat, green chillis, tomatoes and onions (8)

4

Consumption (6)

5

Direct opposite (10)

6

Putrid (4)

7

Inside picture (1-3)

10

Extremely evil (10)

12

Very difficult and confused situation (8)

13

Brave (8)

16

Buddhist kingdom between China and India (6)

18

Matured (4)

19

Recommend (strongly) (4)

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
				10								
11												
										12		13
14						15						
						16						
18			19									
20										21		
22										23		

Yesterday's Quick crossword

Solution No 16,337

A	U	C	T	I	O	N	B	R	I	D	G	E
P	O		B	L	N		A					
B	R	U	T	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	
O	E	C	R	E		G						
F	O	A	M	R	U	B	B	E	R			
T			R			N		F				
M	E	D	D	L	E		D	O	O	D	L	E
D		I				R		A				
			G	R	E	G	A	R	I	O	U	S
E		I	L	W		G		T				
S	P	A	C	E	A	G	E		L	O	I	N
E		A		N		R		O		S		
B	E	R	M	U	D	A	S	H	O	R	T	S



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Sandwich sudoku

Medium

Place the digits from 1-9 in each row, column and 3x3 block. The clues outside the grid show the sum of the numbers placed between the 1 and 9 in that row or column.

					6		23
8					9		12
							20
5			8			9	6
							24
4						2	28
							6
		5					0
							14
35	9	2	4	7	13	25	22
						0	

Chris Maslanka Solutions

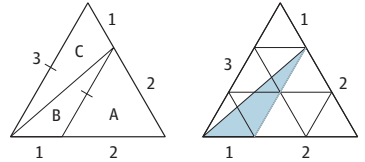
- 1

The title of the film was given as “À bout de souffle”.
- 2

If $y = \sqrt{(1 + 4x)}$, $y^2 = 1 + 4x$ and $x = (y^2 - 1)/4$; so y^2 must be an odd square; but can it be *any* odd square? Put $y^2 = (2k + 1)^2$. (where k is a natural number used to index the solutions. That is, $k = 1$ gives the 1st solution, $k = 2$ the 2nd and so on...) Then $x = [(2k + 1)^2 - 1]/4 = (4k^2 + 4k + 1 - 1)/4 = k(k + 1)$, which is twice the k th triangular number for all k [The k th triangular is given by $T(k) = k(k + 1)/2$.]; so the allowed values of $x(k)$ are $[0,] 2, 6, 12, 20, 30 \dots$ ie, $k(k + 1)$ and the corresponding values of $y(k)$ are $[1,] 3, 5, 7 \dots$ ie, $y(k) = 2k + 1$. **Point to Ponder:** What if we allowed negative values for k ?
- 3

There are so many ways of doing this. Here are just two, both motivated by laziness. First choose

a more convenient aspect. This one has triangles A and B on the same base; if the whole has height $3h$, A and B have common height $2h$. So $A = (1/2)(2)(2)h = 2h$; $A + B = (1/2)(3)(2)h$; so $B = h$. But $A + B + C = (1/2)(3)(3)h = (9/2)h$; whence $A = 4/9$, $B = 2/9$, $C = 3/9 = 1/3$. Even more lazily, divide the triangle into 3^2 equal mini-triangles. A contains 4 out of 9; B contains half of 4 out of 9; and C contains (half of 4) plus 1 out of 9.



- 4

Number of ways of ordering 10 pupils is $10!$; number in which Bert and Kurt are adjacent is $2 \cdot (9!)$; so

number of allowed orderings is $10! - 9!2 = 8 \cdot (9!) = 2,903,040$.

5

Let the number without the 5 be N . Putting a 5 in front of N is tantamount to adding 500,000 to it. Putting a 5 on the end of N is tantamount to multiplying it by 10 and adding 5; so: $[500,000 + N] = 4/5[10N + 5]$. Multiplying both sides by 5 gives: $2,500,000 + 5N = 40N + 20$, so that $35N = 2,499,980$ and $N = 2,499,980/35 = 71,428$; so the number is 714,285.

Wordplay: Wordpool a), d), d); Wordcentre ANTEATER; Dropouts TOILETRY; EPU ASTROLOGY; 3-4-5 WAS, TAXI, GEESE; Cracker Barrel MAX; Missing Links a) cabbage/patch/work b) button/mushroom/soup c) even/song/bird d) cupboard/door/man e) butterfly/net/zero f) football/game/pie

A	X	T	Y
H	S	G	F
F	A	S	T

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Weather

Saturday 17 September 2022

UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny

Mist

Fog

Sunny intervals

Hazy

Mostly cloudy

Overcast/dull

Sunny showers

Sunny and heavy showers

Light showers

Rain

Sleet

Light snow

Snow showers

Heavy snow

Ice

Thundery rain

Thundery showers

Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph

Windy

35C

30

25

20

15

10

5

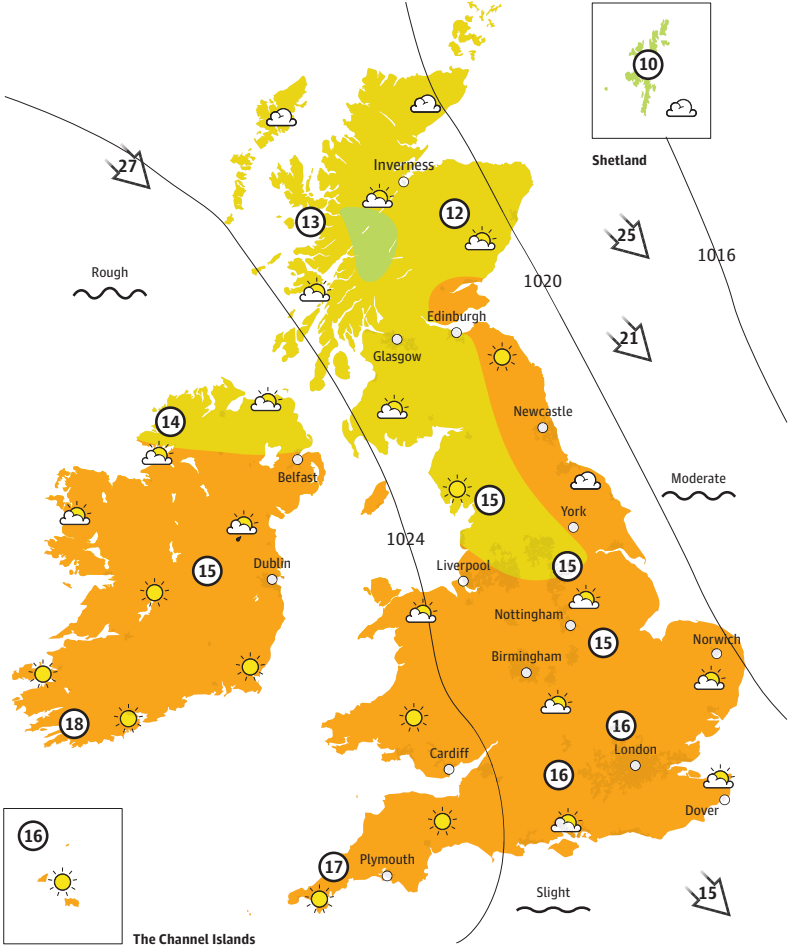
0

-5

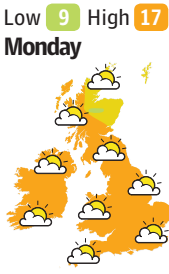
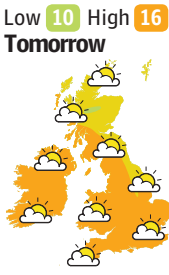
-10

-15

-20



Forecast



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

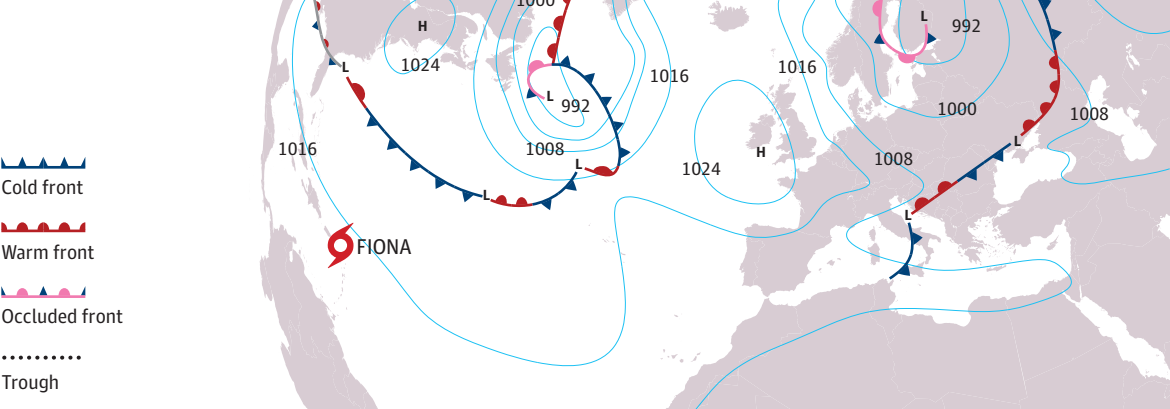
Latest	
15 Sep 2022	416.30
Weekly average	
04 Sep 2022	416.33
16 Sep 2021	413.41
16 Sep 2012	391.85
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London Lows and highs 9 16 Precipitation 5% Air pollution Low
Manchester 10 15 5% Low
Edinburgh 7 14 25% Low
Belfast 9 14 5% Low
Birmingham 8 15 5% Low
Brighton 9 16 0% Low
Bristol 9 16 0% Low
Cardiff 9 17 0% Low
Newcastle 8 15 25% Low
Penzance 12 16 0% Low

Atlantic front



High tides

Aberdeen	0634	3.6m	1904	3.5m
Avonmouth	--	--	1154	10.8m
Barrow	0418	7.8m	1638	7.5m
Belfast	0421	3.2m	1650	3.2m
Cobh	1031	3.4m	2252	3.3m
Cromer	--	--	1137	4.3m
Dover	0409	5.8m	1627	5.8m
Dublin	0443	3.5m	1715	3.4m
Galway	1029	4.1m	2258	3.9m
Greenock	0524	3.2m	1741	3.2m
Harwich	0440	3.5m	1656	3.6m
Holyhead	0318	4.8m	1541	4.6m
Hull	1117	6.5m	2329	6.0m
Leith	0758	4.7m	2024	4.5m
Liverpool	0358	8.0m	1619	7.6m

London Bridge	0648	6.2m	1908	6.3m
Lossiemouth	0451	3.4m	1718	3.3m
Milford Haven	1110	5.6m	2336	5.4m
Newquay	1005	5.7m	2232	5.5m
North Shields	0838	4.3m	2107	4.1m
Oban	1017	3.2m	2250	3.0m
Penzance	0940	4.6m	2203	4.4m
Plymouth	1030	4.7m	2243	4.5m
Portsmouth	0434	4.1m	1653	4.1m
Southport	0318	7.7m	1532	7.3m
Stornoway	--	--	1200	3.7m
Weymouth	1039	0.8m	2259	0.6m
Whitby	0909	4.8m	2135	4.6m
Wick	0420	2.9m	1645	2.8m
Workington	0427	7.0m	1649	6.7m

Sun & Moon

Sun rises 0638
Sun sets 1910
Moon rises 2213
Moon sets 1506
Last Quarter 17 Sept

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2022

Lighting up

Belfast	1937 to 0703
Birm'ham	1918 to 0646
Brighton	1910 to 0640
Bristol	1921 to 0650
Carlisle	1923 to 0649
Cork	1944 to 0713
Dublin	1936 to 0704
Glasgow	1930 to 0655
Harlech	1927 to 0655
Inverness	1930 to 0653
London	1910 to 0639
M'chester	1920 to 0648
Newcastle	1919 to 0645
Norwich	1906 to 0634
Penzance	1932 to 0702

Weather tracker

Typhoon Muifa made landfall in eastern China on Wednesday evening, shortly after affecting Japan in previous days, arriving as a category 2 storm and billed as the strongest on record to hit Shanghai, China's largest city.

China's central meteorological observatory issued its first highest typhoon red alert of the year. The tropical system brought sustained winds of 95mph, a threat of up to 200mm (8in) of rainfall and waves in excess of 5 metres (16ft). Both of Shanghai's international airports had to cancel all incoming flights, and 7,400 vessels were seeking shelter in ports in Zhejiang province. The storm is expected to swing north along the east coast of China over the coming days.

Despite being well into meteorological autumn, the summer-like heat refuses to relinquish its grip on parts of Europe. France once again bore the brunt, with south-western areas widely reaching the high 30s, 15C degrees above normal. France recorded its hottest September day on 12 September, with 40.7C reached in Bégaar in Nouvelle-Aquitaine. This blast of heat follows an exceptionally warm summer, the second hottest France has recorded. **Nicholas Lee MetDesk**

Around the world

	Algers	29		Lisbon	28
	Ams'dam	15		Madrid	28
	Athens	31		Malaga	27
	Auckland	16		Melb'rne	14
	B Aires	21		Mexico C	21
	Bangkok	32		Miami	31
	Barcelona	23		Milan	23
	Basra	42		Mombasa	28
	Beijing	33		Moscow	15
	Berlin	16		Mumbai	30
	Bermuda	28		N Orleans	31
	Brussels	14		Nairobi	25
	Budapest	16		New Delhi	33
	C'hagen	17		New York	25
	Cairo	32		Oslo	14
	Cape Town	15		Paris	17
	Chicago	30		Perth	18
	Corfu	28		Prague	12
	Dakar	30		Reykjavik	12
	Dhaka	32		Rio de J	21
	Dublin	15		Rome	26
	Florence	20		Shanghai	30
	Gibraltar	24		Singapore	30
	H Kong	33		Stockh'm	12
	Harare	27		Strasb'g	16
	Helsinki	12		Sydney	22
	Istanbul	29		Tel Aviv	30
	Jo'burg	25		Tenerife	29
	K Lumpur	31		Tokyo	27
	K'mandu	26		Toronto	25
	Kabul	27		Vancouv'r	18
	Kingston	32		Vienna	15
	Kolkata	32		Warsaw	15
	L Angeles	27		Wash'ton	28
	Lagos	29		Well'ton	15
	Lima	17		Zurich	12

DREAM BIG

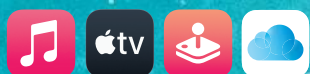
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PER MONTH

when you trade in
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Roam Abroad Pass: Access your standard plan allowances in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand plus the EU/EEA. 50GB fair use policy applies outside UK. See ee.co.uk/terms for countries and details. **Trade In:** Available in selected retail stores or when you join/upgrade direct with us over the phone or online. Trade in an iPhone 11 or iPhone 12 and get the iPhone 14 Pro on a 25GB or higher plan to qualify for a £288 discount which is applied monthly over the 24-month minimum term. Your device must be in good working order, power up and have no major screen damage. Terms apply.

Trussonomics is a recipe for economic and social disaster *George Monbiot, page 3*

How will history judge the second Elizabethan era? *Matthew Engel, page 4*

The republican voice should not be silenced *Clive Lewis, page 5*

The Guardian **Saturday 17 September 2022**



Journal

From Center Parcs down, we are just One Nation Under Brands

For all the horror and tragedy of death, the aftermaths of many bereavements produce unexpected moments of light relief. As long as the deceased is an adult who has lived to a ripe old age, you can pretty much guarantee that there will be

some sudden instant – usually when you’re shoulder-deep in making the arrangements – that reduces you and perhaps a sibling or two to truly helpless giggles. We all need a pressure valve, and few things can be taken entirely seriously for 10 whole days.

Of course, you can never predict quite what is going to set you off. It might be as random as the undertaker leaning towards you, steepling his fingers, and asking in hushed tones bordering on reverence: “And did she have a favourite wood?” Nope, sorry. I’ve gone. I’ve absolutely gone.

In the wake of the Queen’s death, these moments of hopelessly unintentional, tenuously sane hilarity have surely been produced by the behaviour of any number of our commercial brands. Them and Nicholas Witchell, anyway. It’s been like a competition to see which retailer can act the most preposterously, the most self-regardingly, and with the most complete commitment to the twee.

Could it be Morrisons, announcing that it had turned down the volume of its till beeps “out of respect”? Could it be pawnshop chain Cash Converters, formally announcing its self-seclusion from social media? Or could it be – and this one’s the correct answer – Center Parcs, decreeing that holidaymakers must be thrown

out of its villages for the day of the Queen’s funeral “as a mark of respect”, before backtracking and permitting customers to remain on site, while ordering them to “remain in their lodges”?

Yup, I’ve gone. Completely gone. If you’ve felt slightly “managed” by aspects of the relentlessly choreographed elements of the past week, then this really was your Triumph of the Corporate Will. It was, all of a sudden, simply impossible not to picture oneself in one’s wood-effect, lodge-effect detention hut, cowering by the forest-mural feature wall as village guards toured the site with loudhailers while screaming, “REMAIN IN YOUR LODGES!”

Thank heavens for a glimpse of the indomitable spirit of pisstake, as various online posters offered a masterclass in why brands really should avoid running their firms by the Pooterising diktats of social media. “Good luck removing guests from the parks,” ran one Twitter response to Center Parcs (heroically refusing to submit to the “parcs” affectation). “You’ve trained them in archery, shooting, swimming, canoeing and swinging through the trees like apes. You’ve basically got five village-loads of ninjas to clear out.”

Majestic. Yet still the brands came. No doubt the Queen’s death has taught

Marina Hyde



*** Guardian Live**
Marina Hyde will join Guardian Live for events in Manchester (4 October) and London (10 October) to discuss her new book, *What Just Happened?!* For details visit theguardian.com/guardianlive

2

From Center Parcs down, we are just One Nation Under Brands

Marina Hyde

← Continued from front

us many things, but one of mine has been that I absolutely don’t need to be contacted about it in yet another non-Spandex-related email by a luxury UK yogawear brand. I didn’t need to hear from them after the death of George Floyd, and I sure as heck don’t need to hear from them again now. Honestly: get over yourself. You’re in retail! Just sell me your crap and be on your way.

The commercial landscape is awash with this nonsense. I know our society is measured by how it treats its most wantonly evil members, but my finger does hover over the “deploy whole-life-tariff” button when I read about Innocent Fruit Smoothies not tweeting for a few days “out of respect” for Her Majesty’s death. But of course - of course - Innocent would take this immensely self-righteous stand. Its products are just a few among an ever-growing mountain that plaster their terrible pious catechisms all over their packaging, and where the words “the good stuff” are supposed to signify something moral as well as nutritional. Sorry, but no. Stop managing me. Just sell me your crap and be on your way.

What have these companies been doing all week since the Queen died, other than getting it amusingly wrong and reminding us that, for all their tactical social positioning in the course of flogging more units of this or that, they actually have precisely zero idea how to behave in a situation that, amazingly, doesn’t require any input from them at all? The ludicrous attempts at managing their customers have sparked hugely funny and invigorating backlashes. Arguably much in need of a pressure valve, sections of the public have been given a fantastic opportunity to let out a cackle, and shout the simple, inescapable truth at whatever screen on which they’re viewing the brand announcement. Namely: “No one cares! Literally NO ONE CARES what you do or don’t do!”

I’m not suggesting everyone has woken up from some late-capitalist slumber with a howl of realisation that actually some bunch of plonkers at British Cycling are not in fact the boss of them. If they want to go for a bike ride on the day of the funeral, they don’t need permission. Alas, this is still a country where the annual release of the John Lewis advert is obediently greeted as though it’s one of the formal parts of Christmas. But what a great showing-of-the-arses the past week has been for so many firms and organisations, and a reminder that we really shouldn’t submit to our brand overlords, because they know very little and matter even less. The important things in life are nothing at all, ever, to do with retailers and brands. Any of them suggesting otherwise deserve total ridicule - or perhaps for some chaotically boring little American academic to accuse them of “centering themselves during a national tragedy”. Which is obviously a fate worse than total ridicule.

Quite how we’ve got to this ludicrous place where irrelevant retailers feel moved to act like the archbishop of Canterbury is unclear, but the past week has certainly underscored the necessity of getting out of it before we submit fully to becoming One Nation Under Brands. Every one of these botched attempts at gravitas now turns me full Braveheart - and I very much hope you are with me.

Are we going to be confined to our metaphorical lodges by the preposterous posturing of retailers? Are we going to allow death - any death - to be part of their ridiculous “brand positioning”? Are we going to be told how to act by a flipping pawnbroker? No. No, my friends, we are not. Instead, let us rise up in defiance of the tyranny of corporate twee. Let us take up our bows and our safety-arrows, our plastic putters and our laser-rifles. Let us defy the orders of our corporate oppressors and roam the village of human pisstake and possibility, and beyond. They can take our cash - but we can NEVER take them seriously.

The Guardian

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‘Comment is free... but facts are sacred’ CP Scott

Royalty

Tories are to blame for a King with a ‘duty’ to make his views known

Liz Truss is Britain’s third prime minister in just over three years. This degree of instability is the product of the modern Conservative party’s refusal to confess its mistakes and to correct them. Instead, the Tories appear obsessed with blaming opponents for their repeated failure to deliver on their promises. The death of Queen Elizabeth II is a chance for the prime minister to reset this attitude in a number of controversial and unresolved matters. The monarch’s passing - and the outpouring of affection for the late Queen - hints at a yearning for a more unifying public conversation. Ms Truss must also be aware that the evolving nature of monarchy, and the arrival of an opinionated King Charles III, sets the stage for possible public conflicts between ministers and the crown.

The first might come over Northern Ireland and Brexit. The King’s view that “no man is an island” in the run-up to Britain’s departure from the EU was interpreted as a rebuke to those who saw these islands’ destiny as independent from the continent. It was also widely remarked this week that the King seemed more at ease with Sinn Féin, which wants to remove Northern Ireland from his kingdom, than with the Democratic Unionist party, which is desperate to remain in it. This might be because of the rupture in the political settlement caused by the DUP’s boycott of the power-sharing pact following its rejection of the Northern Ireland protocol.

In June, to the delight of the DUP, Ms Truss

introduced a bill that would give ministers the right in UK law to unilaterally rip up the protocol that they negotiated and eject Northern Ireland from the single market. The move has irritated Brussels, Washington and Dublin, where such parliamentary vandalism is seen as risking decades of peace. Britain’s friends hoped that Brexit’s divisions would be closed in time rather than widened. With the US president, Joe Biden, the Irish taoiseach, Micheál Martin, and the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, arriving for the Queen’s funeral, Ms Truss ought to be able to thrash out a workable solution. If she does not do a deal, she risks sowing division. Hardly anyone - including the King - would be happy with that.

It is often suggested that the monarch’s powers have waned over time since the 19th-century journalist Walter Bagehot first described the role of the sovereign in influencing, rather than making, the decisions of government. Bagehot wrote that the monarch had “the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn”. However, in 2012, a Conservative attorney general denied the Guardian further access to lobbying letters from the Prince of Wales to British ministers, saying that a monarch has not just a right but a “duty” to make his views known to the government.

This was a retrograde step for democracy. Even so, it may have unexpectedly welcome consequences. The coming weeks could see judges declare unlawful the deal reached by the former home secretary to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. Would Ms Truss not think again - especially as the King has let it be known that he also disapproved of the policy? King Charles has said that he will abide by the “precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of our nation”. That was read as a reassurance that he would not speak out when he disagrees with the government. But it may also be a threat that he would.

Swedish election

Mainstream parties are complicit in the far right’s political breakthrough

During an election campaign dominated by the themes of immigration, multiculturalism and violent crime, a spokesman for the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD) tweeted a picture of a metro train in the party’s colours, accompanied by the anti-migrant message: “Welcome aboard the repatriation express. Here’s a one-way ticket. Next stop, Kabul.” Its manifesto seeks to create one of Europe’s most hostile environments for non-Europeans and make asylum almost impossible to obtain. With its roots in the neo-Nazi movement, the SD caused an electoral earthquake this week by becoming the country’s second-largest party.

The election results leave a loose coalition of the SD and the three centre-right parties ahead by a majority of three in the parliament of 349 seats. The craven compliance of the Moderates, historically the largest of Sweden’s conservative parties, has let a party condemned as “neo-fascists” by the government and shunned for most of the past decade come this close to power. The SD is unlikely to be offered any ministerial posts, but will still be able to exercise considerable influence as the largest party in the electoral alliance. Denmark, Finland, Norway, and now Sweden, once seen as bastions of social democracy - albeit less so of racial equality - have all had, or have, governments either including or relying on populist, anti-immigrant parties.

There are also early signs that, from its new position of influence, the SD will pursue culture wars and pick fights with public service broadcasters over alleged elite bias against it. In a country historically admired

for its consensual politics, further polarisation seems inevitable. It is shaping up to be quite an autumn for Europe’s radical right. In Italy, next Sunday’s election is expected to deliver power to a conservative coalition headed by Brothers of Italy, a party with neo-fascist roots. The SD’s victory brought tweeted acclaim from Marine Le Pen.

The likely leader of Sweden’s next government, the Moderate party leader, Ulf Kristersson, will not want Sweden to become a Scandinavian version of Hungary and Poland, where democratic checks and balances have been eroded and judicial independence undermined. If he did, the new administration’s tiny majority would quickly be at risk from its more liberal components. It is also true that under the brash leadership of Jimmie Åkesson, the SD has undergone a makeover, rebranding itself as a socially conservative, nationalist party and clamping down on overt extremism in its ranks. But that scarcely makes its new proximity to power any more palatable.

For the centre-right Moderates and the defeated Social Democrats (who topped the polls but could not command a majority), the SD’s seismic breakthrough poses awkward questions. Both parties have tacked heavily rightwards on immigration, hoping to see off the far-right threat - yet still shipped votes to the SD. Meanwhile, Mr Åkesson has succeeded in persuading many Swedes that the cost of absorbing asylum seekers has undermined a welfare state that has traditionally been a national badge of pride. Mr Åkesson’s ambition is, he says, for the SD to sit in government. That would be a gamechanger.

In the wake of the financial crash and the wave of refugees in the mid 2010s, this strategy of combining anti-immigrant sentiment with welfare nativism is allowing the radical right to make headway throughout Europe. Progressive politicians and parties need to find a better and more creative response than one of pale imitation.



Trussonomics is a recipe for economic and social disaster

**George
Monbiot**



Soon, the focus will return, and the collapse of many people's economic prospects will dominate once more. As winter approaches, it will become clear that our politics is spectacularly lacking in answers. Why? Because the doctrine destroying our condition of life is the doctrine Liz Truss has promised to extend to new extremes. She is fanatically devoted to an ideology misleadingly called Thatcherism or Reaganism (as if they invented it), but more accurately described as neoliberalism.

This doctrine insists that politics submits to "the market", which means, when translated, that democracy must submit to the power of money. Any impediment to the accumulation of wealth – such as public ownership, tax, regulation, trade unions and political protest – should be torn down.

For 40 years or so, neoliberalism in the UK has been unchallengeable. For the Conservatives, especially those populating the current cabinet, the dogma cannot be shaken by mere evidence of harm, even when this includes the destitution of millions and the collapse of Earth systems. For Labour, it sets boundaries that cannot be crossed, for fear of punishment by the billionaire press. Any deviation from the doctrine is akin to blasphemy. But the countries in which the ideology has been most fiercely applied are those that have seen the steepest declines in both their economic and civic prospects.

Neoliberalism promised it would generate growth. The benefits of this growth would trickle from the rich to the poor, enhancing everyone's conditions of life. But growth, for better or worse, has been slower globally during the neoliberal era than during the years before Thatcher and Reagan came to power. And far from ensuring that money trickles down, neoliberalism is the pump that shifts wealth from the poor to the rich.

In the US, for example, during the 1960s and early 1970s, the greatest beneficiaries of economic growth were the poorest 20%. But from 1980, the proceeds of growth were transferred from the poorest people to the ultra-rich. Median income in the US rose at just one-third of the rate of GDP growth, while the income of the richest 1% rose at three times the rate. There's a similar

ILLUSTRATION:
NATE KITCH

At the heart of neoliberalism is a mathematically impossible promise: that absolutely everybody can end up being No 1

story in the UK. Of the poorest 10% of households, almost half now have more debts than assets.

None of this is accidental. Neoliberalism is sold to us as a means of enhancing freedom and choice, but in reality it's about power. It shifts tax and regulation from those who are rich and powerful on to people who are poor and weak. The taxes the wealthy once paid have been transferred to those with far smaller resources.

Look at Truss's proposal for addressing the energy bills crisis. Instead of taxing the record profits of oil and gas companies, she's using the taxes the rest of us pay to allow them to keep raking in monstrous sums. Even this policy, presented as a means of helping poor people with their bills, will, when combined with the new cuts in national insurance, ensure that the richest households receive twice as much help with their living costs as the poorest households.

The "plan for growth" on which Truss campaigned was pure neoliberal gospel. Her key advisers are drawn from covertly funded neoliberal thinktanks. She will go as far as electoral politics allow in transferring wealth from the poor to the rich, attacking trade unions and protesters, opening the floodgates for pollution and greenhouse gases and dismembering the NHS.

After 40 years of this experiment, we can state with confidence that the economic success it proclaimed is illusory. Its buy-now-pay-later economics works by inflating asset values and household debt and burning through human relationships, conditions of employment and the living world. Now that there is little more to burn, Thatcher's fire is reduced to embers, as is much of the world we knew. Yet Truss seeks only to breathe life into the coals. And this is when it gets really dangerous.

The political consequences of neoliberalism could be as disastrous as its economic consequences. In the 30 years following the second world war, almost everyone in politics recognised that preventing the resurgence of fascism meant ensuring everyone's needs were met, through a strong social safety net and robust public services. But neoliberalism stripped these defences away. Thatcher proclaimed "there is no alternative" and Labour appears, ever since, to have agreed. Worse still, the dogma has at the same time promoted extreme self-interest. At its heart is a mathematically impossible promise: everyone can be No 1.

In the gap between great expectations and low delivery, humiliation and resentment grow. In these conditions, it is easy for demagogues to blame the frustration of people's hopes on scapegoats. History shows that when political choice is lacking and people see no prospect of relief, they become susceptible to the transfer of blame. The transfer – attacking refugees and fomenting culture wars – is already well under way. Truss's techniques of distraction open the door to fascism. I no longer find it impossible to see the far right swarming into the policy vacuum left by Conservative indifference and Labour timidity, and taking power in this country.

We need real, inspiring alternatives, positive visions of a better world, rather than competing modifications of the disastrous ideology that got us into this mess. We need hope.

How will history judge the second Elizabethan era?

Matthew Engel



When Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne, in 1952, charming country houses that would now be worth several million could be picked up for under £10,000. Sweets, tea, butter, margarine and meat were among the foods still rationed. Only a small minority of households had fridges, washing machines or telephones. Outside toilets were common, cars aspirational, televisions a novelty item, central heating barely a rumour. Outside, the cities were smoky from the ubiquitous coal fires. Inside, houses were smoky because so many adults' lips held cigarettes.

Children began playing unsupervised shortly after they could walk. Crime rates were low, and

front doors often unlocked. Hangings were common enough to be hardly worth reporting except in the most sensational cases. National service for young men was hard to avoid, and some conscripts were sent to fight and die in Korea.

Women mostly stayed at home and, the monarch excepted, almost never held prominent positions. Gay people were persecuted, more so in the early 1950s than before. Many Britons would only ever have seen white faces. The country was still largely industrial. And it still had an empire, though not the resources to support it.

Every one of those facts, except the last seven words, changed in the course of Elizabeth II's reign. Never has Britain altered so much under the rule of a single monarch. Perhaps no other country has either. The swirl and churn around her (not least in her own family) made the Queen's constancy all the more remarkable. "Good old Watson! You are the one fixed point in a changing age," said Sherlock Holmes in *His Last Bow*. Elizabeth II played that role in our own times.

And yet, she did not manage to stamp her personality on the era. The word "Elizabethan" in 2022 still conjures up images of Sir Francis Drake playing bowls as the Armada came in, Sir Walter Raleigh laying his cloak down in a puddle and Miranda Richardson prancing around in *Blackadder*.

Churchill, in a majestic prime ministerial radio address the day after Elizabeth II became queen, invoked "the grandeur and genius of the Elizabethan age", and the concept of "new Elizabethans" did take hold for a while. A plane and a new fast train (less than seven hours from King's Cross to Edinburgh) were both named the Elizabethan.

And public figures took to hectoring people on the need to work harder and reproduce the spirit of Good Queen Bess's time. The historian Michael Howard later reflected that it was a good analogy: "Once again we were, as we had been then, a power of the second rank, teetering on the verge of bankruptcy."

*
Matthew Engel
is the author of
The Reign - Life in Elizabeth's Britain, Part 1: The Way It Was, 1952-1979,
to be published
next month

Never has Britain altered so much under the rule of a single monarch. Perhaps no other country has either

But it did not stick. The last eponymous age was Queen Victoria's reign. "Victorian" instantly evokes the image of her times, or at least their perception as "prudish, strict; old-fashioned, outdated", (Oxford English Dictionary). It is even used in the US, particularly to describe houses.

Victoria spent 63 years on the throne, and change in that period was vast. When she became queen, most travel involved horses, and only a couple of railways had been built. By the time of her death, the first motor cars were on the roads and the Wright brothers were well on their way to inventing the aeroplane. But societal attitudes and the lives of the people were far more static than they would become under her great-great-granddaughter.

Perhaps it is because the second Elizabethan age has seen such an extraordinary pace of change that trying to encompass it with a single adjective is futile. It is more convenient to split it into decades, with images that are evocative (even if not necessarily accurate). The 50s are dull and conformist, the 60s an age of sex and drugs and rock'n'roll, the 70s riddled with contentiousness and the 80s as Thatcherism, for better or worse (delete to taste), and so on.

Whereas Victoria could be perceived as embodying her own era, certainly in her sad and sullen widowhood, Elizabeth II stood in apposition (but not opposition) to hers. And maybe that is the key to her success as a monarch. In a country whose politics became increasingly fractious and bitter, and a nation often delusional about its place in the world, she remained solid and unchanging, a lighthouse on a rocky shore sending out a platitudinous message of decency, kindness and a little bit of God. And if she ever had been faced with a genuine political crisis that would have required her intervention as the referee of last resort, her instinct for fairness would have almost certainly led her to the right answer. Imagine if Margaret, her thoroughly modern flibbertigibbet of a sister, had ascended the throne, and think of how different things may have been.

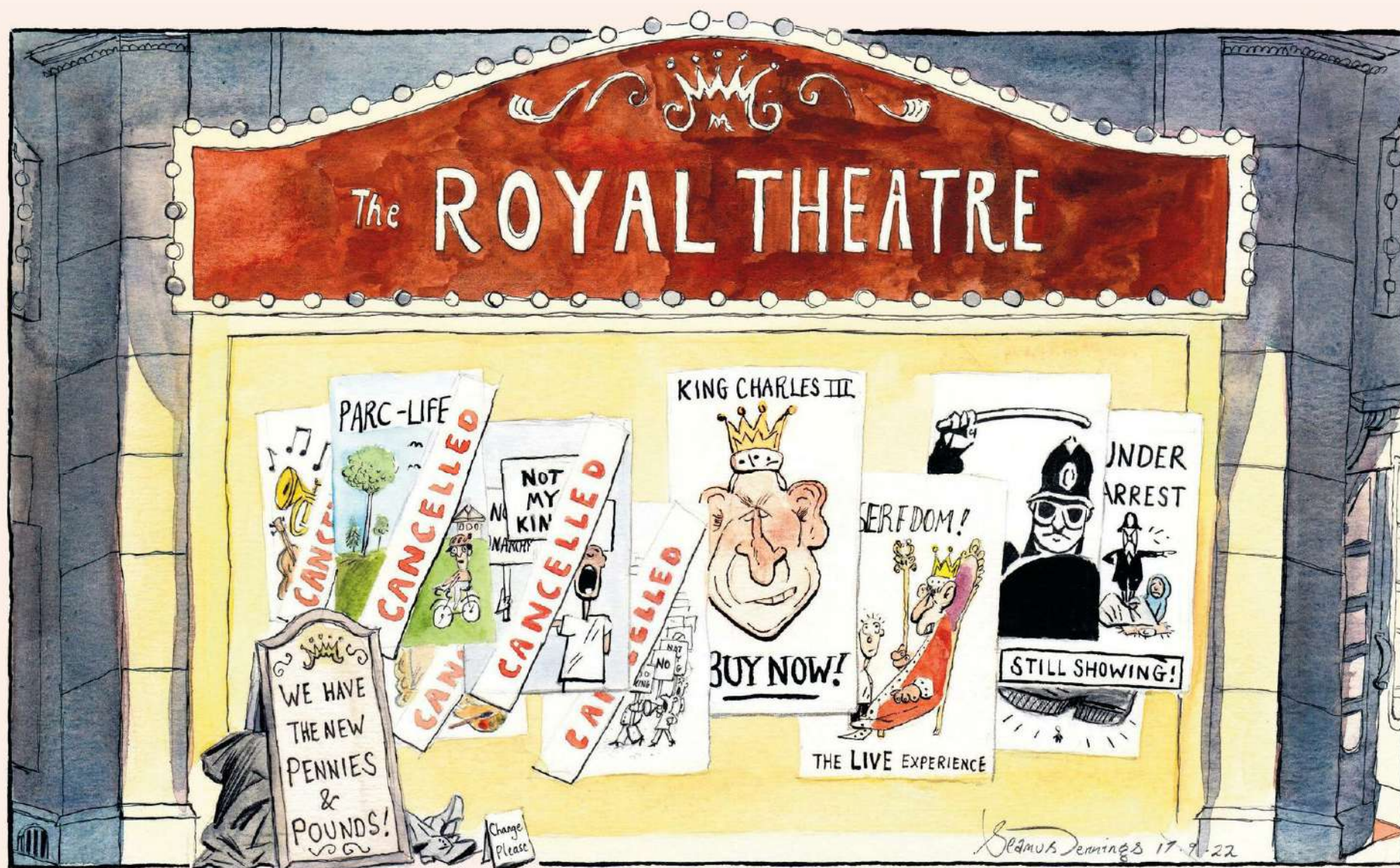
Part of her impartiality, I am inclined to think, owed not only to her early accession at the age of 25, but to the rather meagre education she had received before then. Unlike King Charles III, she had no time to acquire the kind of ideas that might feed controversy. Charles now has to unlearn much of what he knows. It is far better, perhaps, not to acquire views in the first place.

Charles, aged 73, is likely to have a relatively brief reign: although that worked for Edward VII, who only reigned for nine, and still managed to have his own evocative era. "Edwardian" had a certain elegance - a chimerical idyll before the cannon fire took over. Unfortunately, Charles is not a very adjectival name. Caroline, Carolean and Carline have been suggested. They seem unlikely to catch on.

Maybe his reign is going to be characterised by this decade. Judging by its performance so far, we will need to reach for one of the King's favourite adjectives, most recently applied to his opinion - when he was still allowed to have one - on the plan to airlift refugees to Rwanda: the Appalling era.



The Queen greets crowds in Portsmouth during the celebrations to mark her silver jubilee in 1977 PHOTOGRAPH: RON BELL/PA



The republican voice should not be silenced

Clive Lewis



This week has been difficult for those of us who want to see a fully democratised, 21st-century polity that doesn't have a hereditary billionaire as its head of state. Everything from the media coverage to the arrest of protesters and the state-sanctioned cancel culture of those who dissent has laid bare the fact that this transition is as much about coercion as consent.

But the most difficult thing to reconcile has been watching tens of thousands of fellow citizens quietly queueing for up to nine hours to file past a coffin while bowing and curtsying.

My initial response was bemusement, followed by a touch of despair. Why, I asked, would so many

people, often with so little, show such deference to an institution that is the very embodiment of the inequalities of wealth and power? Because until republicans can fully understand this sentiment, we will struggle to win the argument for transition from constitutional monarchy to constitutional democracy.

To gain that insight you need only listen to the same people interviewed. They are clearly moved, with some talking about their parents' deaths or, more commonly, about wanting to be a part of "history"; what is prevalent is the need to feel part of something more than themselves.

So how can democratic politics fulfil that function? That's far from clear: how many prime ministers would you queue to pay final respects to? But we do know a fundamental truth about monarchy - it is an integral part of a class that rules for its own benefit.

For half of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, our common life was destroyed by the privatisation of water, energy, public transport and council housing, by fracking and sewage in rivers, and by the despoliation of our common wealth. This took place without a murmur of royal disapproval. Yet, at the same time, the royal family managed to exempt itself from more than 160 pieces of legislation for its own advantage, such as the waiving of the 40% inheritance tax on the crown estate's estimated £15.2bn of royal assets.

So while some republicans might respect the language of "duty" and "sacrifice" ascribed to the royal family, we should not pretend that the reality is anything other than a lie. The crown is sovereign, not the people, not parliament: justifying a hereditary head of state with real powers and the existence of a closely aligned class of people, born to rule.

Perhaps in a genuine democracy, our legislature could offer real checks and balances. Yet more than half our legislature remains unelected, with many

distinguished only by having helped to fund the party of hereditary privilege - the Conservative party.

If we as a country are to move away from the constant democratic gaslighting by this political class, we must make constitutional, democratic reform a priority. Discussion of the monarchy is something to be vigorously aired, not shut down or even temporarily suppressed. In a UK that needs such deliberation, my own party would be wise to give expression to such democratic sentiment.

But republicans must also offer something that goes beyond the material technicalities of politics and governance. Sacrifice, timelessness and ritual need not be bound up in ermine and gold. The sense of belonging, of something shared: this is good politics; politics that demands of people that they sometimes act and feel in a way that goes beyond themselves.

Perhaps a republican head of state could be regularly chosen from those who display these qualities. People who put their lives on the line such as the military and firefighters, public servants such as nurses and teachers.

The British people have never, through democratic means, been given the chance to try something different and approve or reject constitutional monarchy. Instead, those who dissent have been shut down, intimidated or arrested.

Observing this, I was reminded of a conversation with a Chinese media student who shadowed me while I was a BBC reporter. I mentioned the massacre of Tiananmen Square. She hadn't heard of it, so I showed her John Simpson's now famous reporting. "This is probably true," she said. "But then I'm fully aware of the nature of the regime I live under. You delude yourself you live in a democracy." She was right. It is time to wake up and understand the flawed reality of the very limited democracy we inhabit.

*
Clive Lewis
is the Labour
MP for Norwich
South

How parents cope with empty-nest syndrome

Emma Beddington is absolutely spot-on about the overwhelming feelings of grief when children leave home ('It struck me like a thunderbolt', 15 September). My main fear was of my own neediness. I couldn't phone my son in his first week at Manchester in case he cut the call short - I would have felt devastated. So I waited. Eventually I got a text: "What shall I buy for my first food shop?" I was elated. The boy who'd refused to cook at home was about to do just that, and he was asking my advice.

By the end of term he was making curries from scratch with one of his flatmates, and we were exchanging messages about recipes and ingredients. Since then the kids, now graduated, have set up a WhatsApp group, for us, them and their partners. Contact is maintained through shared jokes, YouTube links and naff or stupid news stories. I have an Instagram account to view their photos. We still have our humour and interests in common; the relationship hasn't ended but continues to evolve. As a male friend gruffly put it: "You'll survive it; we all do."

Stephanie Calman
London

● It is heartbreaking when your child suddenly leaves home. We found a great cure for that sense of emptiness, quite by accident: rescuing Siberian huskies; first one, then a year later a second. They are incredible animals: quite demanding, like teenagers, but

also very friendly, and ours were both very happy to find a secure home. It's very much like having two cheeky kids in the house. And when our son comes home to see us they go absolutely nuts as soon as he arrives. What a welcome home he receives. And as a bonus they sometimes sing to us - if the land line is not answered fast enough, they will sing along with it.

Gerry Mewton
Reading

● I cried buckets when my last child left, and missed her like mad. We talked regularly on the phone, and I was full of good advice until one day she said in frustration down the phone: "Mum, please stop giving me advice, just listen." Such a good lesson. She's now in her mid-40s and we laugh about it, but it taught me something. We get so used to giving our children guidance, and finding solutions, instead of just taking the time to listen.

Harriet Gibson
Wezembeek-Oppem, Belgium

I started a BA course at 47, at the same time as my youngest daughter left for university, and felt liberated

Lesley Metherell

● I vividly remember the empty silence in the first minutes on returning from dropping our son at university. "I don't like it," I said. I was fortunate to have friends who were going through the same experience, or who had experienced it the year before. "He is starting the next stage of his life, doing what he wants where he wants, and that is a lovely thing," remarked one. Our children are on an outward trajectory for a few years, but eventually it turns inward again and, with recalibration, the relationship is renewed. In the meantime, you rediscover your own person, which enriches what you bring to it.

Dr Penny Hart
Southsea, Portsmouth

● I started a mature student BA course at 47, at the same time as my youngest daughter left for university, and felt liberated. All three were at different universities and they supported me. My middle daughter bought me a backpack for my books, and off I went, sharing their undergraduate experience and feeling very privileged to be catching up. I can recommend it.

Lesley Metherell
Lindfield, West Sussex

● Do not fret, Emma. As a dear friend and mother of six once said to me: "Jane, they leave you on their own and return in pairs." So true. After various comings and goings, alone and in pairs, and later with grandchildren, the last lot moved out two years ago, at 43 and 44 years old with a 10-year-old and an eight-year-old. All nicely settled now and very hospitable to "the olds". I'm planning to have some chairs recovered.

Jane Lawson
London

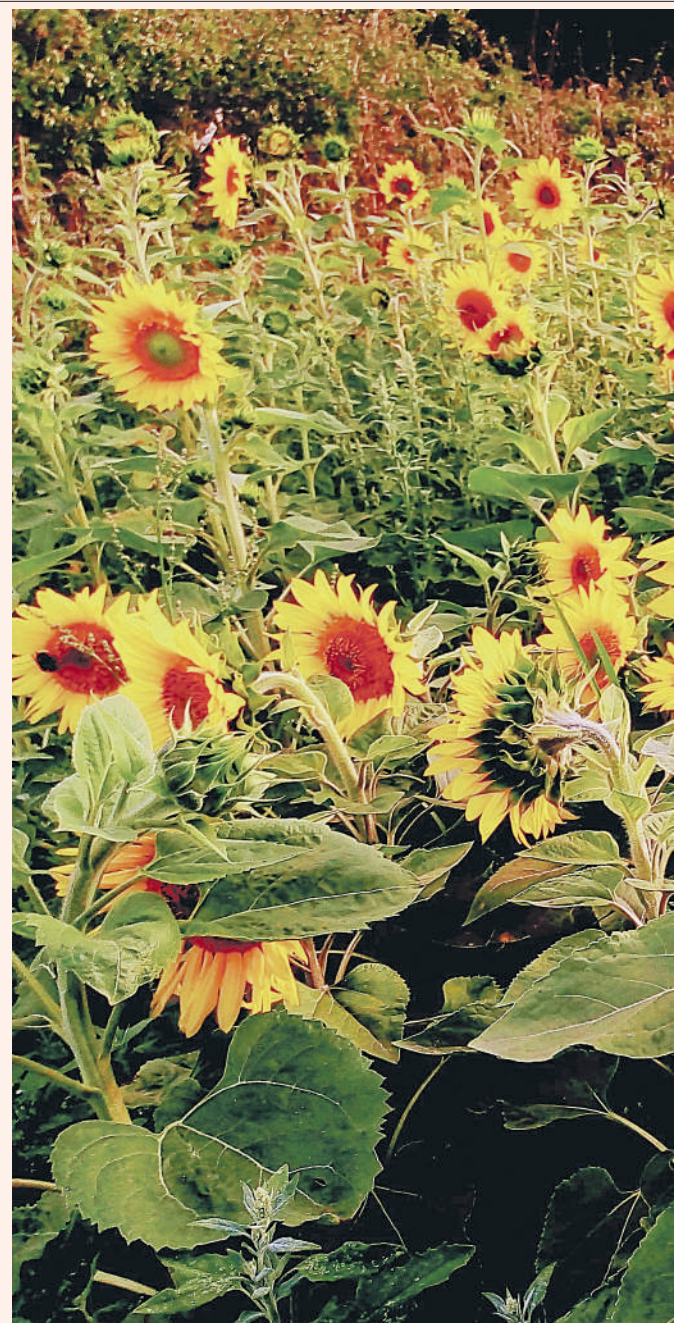
A beeline this way

"Taken one warm August evening near Alsager, Cheshire. Having emerged on a footpath from a sizeable field of eight-foot-high sweetcorn, I was faced with this mesmerizing display of bee-magnet sunflowers"

JULES K BLUE/
GUARDIAN COMMUNITY

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Bulldozers and wrecking balls help Birmingham reinvent itself

Sadly, Birmingham has a long tradition of tearing down its recent past (Aztec mural? Try upstairs in womenswear, 13 September). As an art student in the city in the late 1950s, I was fortunate enough to experience some of the buildings that disappeared in the "highway fever" of the early 1960s. Chief among these was the Woodman, a Victorian public house that stood at the top of Suffolk Street. A veritable Victorian temple of mahogany and engraved mirrors, the double entrance to this pub was flanked by painted tile panels depicting woodmen at work, with a carved stone statue of a woodman in between them. This entrance alone was worthy of listing.

Also falling victim to the bulldozers and wrecking balls were Easy Row, a fine Georgian

terrace of buildings adjacent to the Woodman, and, behind it, Birmingham's reference library, which had its entrance in Chamberlain Square. Circular in plan, it had an awesome interior, with gallery after gallery of bookshelves ascending to the roof. There is a savage irony in the fact that John Madin's replacement for this iconic building has now - after a much shorter life - been torn down. The Library of Birmingham, the new equivalent of both, had better watch out!

But then, regardless of which party is in power at the Council House, Birmingham seems to have an insatiable desire to reinvent itself. And that may be, however regrettable the results are, one of its strengths.

Graham Downie
Studley, Warwickshire

● Oliver Wainwright describes the tearing down of the old brutalist library in Birmingham as shameful. I can only assume that he did not have to visit the library to research his A-level coursework, as I did when I was growing up in the city.

The squeaking escalators and crumbling concrete were not exactly an inspiring setting. The current airy, light-filled library, while not perfect, is infinitely better than the old one.

Birmingham has never looked better in my lifetime, with the older buildings cleaned up and pedestrianised zones replacing inhospitable main roads. The city is finally moving out from under the long shadow cast by the mid-century experiments in architecture that were thrust upon it. The postwar planners were monsters, bulldozing much of the city's Victorian heritage with scarcely a thought for posterity. It is entirely fitting that their own works are set to meet the same fate.

Angus Wood
London

1.5C target is more than just a number

Bill McGuire makes a simple but powerful and totally convincing point (Why we should forget about the 1.5C global heating target, [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com), 12 September). Unfortunately, it comes at a point, in the UK at least, when political understanding of the dynamics of climate change is at a nadir. During Covid we had Sage - the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies - and, with some well-known exceptions, its advice guided the actions of the government and saved lives.

We currently face the mother of all emergencies due to the climate, and more deaths, but forget the idea of the government listening to informed, objective advice. Now the recidivists who railed against lockdowns have been given free rein. They reject scientific advice and thrive, as they always have, on ideology fatally mixed with

nostalgia. They never accepted the 1.5C target, so will have no difficulty in forgetting it - but, tragically, not in the way Prof McGuire hopes for.

Neil Blackshaw
Whittingham, Northumberland

● The message from Prof McGuire's article - that we cannot rely on a 1.5C increase in global temperatures as being "safe" and that we must fight to prevent every 0.1C rise - is in many ways a sobering one. Yet it also has the potential to empower individuals to take action.

As an individual, the global 1.5C target feels like something that one is powerless to affect. However, when one considers that every tonne of CO₂ not emitted is a small temperature rise avoided, individual efforts can be seen to make a difference: every flight not taken, every unnecessary car journey avoided, every kilowatt hour of gas or electricity not consumed. And if lots of people do the same, it will have an impact.

Aaron Turpin
Eastbourne, East Sussex



Will King Charles follow Patagonia’s lead?

How the transfer of power will happen now that King Charles III has to stand down from his business interests in the Duchy of Cornwall empire is not yet clear. But given the King’s longstanding interest in all things ecological, including climate change, wouldn’t it be ethically rewarding if he followed the lead of Yvon Chouinard, the founder of the Patagonia outdoor

apparel company (‘Earth is our shareholder’: Why Patagonia’s founder is giving away his company, 16 September)? Chouinard has pledged to transfer ownership of the company, valued at around \$3bn, to a tailored trust and non-profit organisation committed to ploughing all of its profits into combating climate change and protecting undeveloped land around the world. This kind

of benevolent capitalism is surely a model for future corporations that at present largely benefit owners, CEOs and shareholders. As we move to a renewables-based economy, our model of capitalism must surely follow. Will our King, with all his green credentials, agree with this more radical but inevitable shift in economic thinking to meet the demands of the environment and work for the planet’s profit? **Prof Alan Bleakley**
Sennen, Cornwall

Funeral holiday piles more pressure on NHS

Barbara Richardson (Letters, 15 September) has my sympathies. On Tuesday, I and a number of my consultant colleagues, ward sisters and others had a one-hour meeting to work out how to deal with the recently announced public holiday. Management guidance is that urgent activity should go ahead as planned, but with a skeleton staff

we will struggle to accommodate all the “must happens”, and the “really should happens” will mostly be postponed. Rescheduling delayed treatments will take further hours of planning. I expect similar meetings will have taken place across the NHS during the last couple of days. I anticipate that the public might

respond: “Well come to work, then, if it is so important.” Modern healthcare is complex, and there is little point in the consultants trying to carry on as normal if the support staff on whom we depend (and whose children unexpectedly need alternative childcare arrangements) will not be there. I have very little confidence that the person who made this decision has taken this into account. **Name and address supplied**

Corrections and clarifications

- An opinion article that referenced the end of the cold war said “the liberation of Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Bucharest, Vilnius, Tallinn ... happened at warp speed and ... without a shot being fired”. In fact, there were episodes of violence, including hundreds killed in Bucharest in a crackdown by the Communist dictator Nicolae Ceauşescu, and 14 civilian deaths in Vilnius at the hands of Soviet troops (History’s ‘great man theory’ is truer than we might think, 3 September, Journal, p1).
- Träkol restaurant is in Gateshead, not Newcastle as we said (Dining across the divide, 10 September, Saturday magazine, p11).

Editorial complaints and corrections can be sent to guardian.readers@theguardian.com or The readers’ editor, **Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU**. You can also leave a voicemail on **020 3353 4736**

This queue is surely a UK record breaker

Re John Grace’s sketch (Britain hits its ultimate sweet spot in meeting of pageantry and queues, 16 September), the longest queue in British history must be the NHS waiting list. With 6.7 million people, it comfortably exceeds that for the lying in state of the Queen and would stretch 1,000 miles, from London to Warsaw. **Michael Leigh**
London

- Do we really need a government? Ours has been inactive since Boris Johnson stepped down. The civil service seems capable of keeping the country going. Politicians have ditched the public again in a time of crisis. Are they necessary at all? **Mary Kamaluddin**
Chester
- Is Liz Truss a Lib Dem mole, deep undercover and pursuing policies – fracking, bankers’ bonuses, junk food etc – to ensure Tory unelectability (Truss to lift fracking ban despite lack of progress on tremor risks, 16 September)? **Steve Kibble**
Rudyard, Staffordshire

- Could the fact that Thérèse Coffey had to leave Oxford University after failing exams be the reason for her hatred of the Oxford comma (Report, 16 September)? **Dr Stephen Wilson**
Oxford
- It is a revealing reflection of the state of Britain today that letters critical of the prevailing monarchist atmosphere are published anonymously (15 September). **Name and address supplied**

Established 2021

Young country diary Pembrokeshire

From here I can see everything
Halfway up, this stair is where I sit. High on the rocks, halfway between the salty sea and sand before me and the ancient woodland behind. The sky above changes from morning scarlet to blue-white-grey to streaks of pink-orange, before twilight brings inky-velvet blues and blacks, with swooping bats and haunting owls. In the bright daytime, screeching buzzards soar and oystercatchers squeak. Ahead is the restless but constant rolling water of the waves, as they claw and grasp away at the shore, only to return it rearranged. I clamber up the craggy rocks of my stairs. Jagged barnacles and conical limpets graze me but help me grip, unlike the slippery seaweed algae that would be my slide, not my step. On my way, I pass the rock pools, sometimes pausing to spy the commotion of creatures – the crusty furtive crabs, the slimy amphibious blennies and the darting translucent shrimps bolting from my shadow. Sometimes I take a book to sit and read, but still end up just staring. For me, there isn’t any other stair like it. **Joshua, 14**

Hertfordshire

There are butterflies all over me!
I never believed it would happen, but a butterfly landed on my hand – not just once, but several times. Since our garden is filled with butterfly bushes (buddleia), we have tons of butterflies feasting on their nectar-filled flowers. That’s why I had the idea to stay absolutely still in the middle of the garden, my arms sticking out. To my amazement, a beautiful little butterfly came and rested on my hand. It’s like a sweet tickle on your skin, but even lighter. As it spread out its wings to take in the hot sun, I could study the beautiful colours and patterns properly. It turned out to be a comma, a member of the anglewing family. I noticed that two butterflies kept on returning. They were both commas and really got used to me – one even landed on my forehead! Then I put my hand on the flowers of the buddleia right next to some other butterflies, including a peacock and a red admiral, and slowly but steadily some walked on to it. Oh how lucky I was. **Nuri, 10**

Young country diary, written by children aged between eight and 14, appears in this column on the third Saturday of each month



William Klein

Photographer and film-maker whose street-savvy approach broke with convention

I photograph what I see in front of me,” declared William Klein, who has died aged 96. “I move in close to see better and use a wide-angle lens to get as much as possible in the frame.” Uncompromising, ambitious and to the point, the words are characteristic of this American photographer and film-maker, who pulled no punches in his first publication, *Life Is Good and Good for You in New York: Trance Witness Revels* (1956).

The book’s title was a mouthful of Madison Avenue mixed with the *Daily News*. Klein presented a grainy, grimy and claustrophobic New York: a sea of faces in a shabby city, with open mouths, wide eyes, big grins and furrowed brows. Klein saw the book “as a tabloid gone berserk, gross, over-inked, brutal layout, bull-horn

headlines. This is what New York deserved and would get.”

Eschewing any pretext of being the unassuming observer, he pushed to the front and pointed his finger. The photographs are a cacophony of black and white, a blizzard of charcoal grain and smudged grey shapes, veering between the formal and the fuzzy, driven by chance and chaos. Neon signs, billboards, concrete and tarmac, all pressed together in the photographic frame to give the impression of a city squashed under a shoe – Klein’s shoe.

Living in Paris from 1948, he came to photography from his early studies in art. He had enrolled at the Sorbonne to take up a course in history of art and studied painting with Fernand Léger, whose background in cubism and futurism, and development of what became pop art, had a profound influence on Klein. Léger’s statement that he wanted “to paint

in slang with all its colour and mobility” forms a close parallel to the street-savvy photography that became one of Klein’s hallmarks.

Klein painted in a geometric abstract style, later producing murals and kinetic art (art that incorporates motion). To break free from what he called “the same old paintings of circles, squares and triangles”, he used his kinetic art to make photograms – traces of light on photographic paper.

Working in Milan, he produced a series of quasi-abstract photography covers for the architectural magazine *Domus*, which brought his work to the attention of Alexander Liberman, the art director of *American Vogue*. Klein had been experimenting with a Rolleiflex camera; not in the studio but, as he put it, “out looting the streets”. Liberman perceived a brutal, graphic quality to Klein’s photographs that he believed would have a perverse beauty in the glossy magazine.

Liberman enticed Klein back to New York in 1954 with the offer

Moves and Pepsi, Harlem, New York, 1955, by Klein, pictured below in 2016

WILLIAM KLEIN/
COURTESY HOWARD
GREENBERG GALLERY;
ZHONG WEIXING/AP

I had a peculiar kind of double vision, one eye almost Parisian, the other a wise-ass New Yorker

of a contract as a *Vogue* fashion photographer and the funding to do his own photographic project. Klein chose to photograph his native city. “I had a peculiar kind of double vision, one eye almost Parisian, the other an incorrigible wise-ass New Yorker. I realised that whatever culture shock I felt would wear off eventually, so I went to town and photographed non-stop, with, literally, a vengeance.”

No American publisher would touch the resulting book, *Life Is Good and Good for You in New York*. According to Klein, “Everyone I showed it to said ‘Ech! This isn’t New York – too ugly, too seedy, too one-sided ... This isn’t photography, this is shit.’”

Eventually he took it to Paris, where he showed it to the film-maker Chris Marker, who was then working for the publisher Editions du Seuil, producing *Petite Planète*, a series of pocket travel books. Overcoming their objections, Marker persuaded Editions du Seuil to publish the book in 1956. It won the Prix Nadar award for best photography book edited in France.

Klein, for all the hype, was not inventing a new form of photography. His talent was to appropriate a certain form of it – a brash, graphic approach to documentary photography – and apply it into a format usually reserved for the sedate monograph.

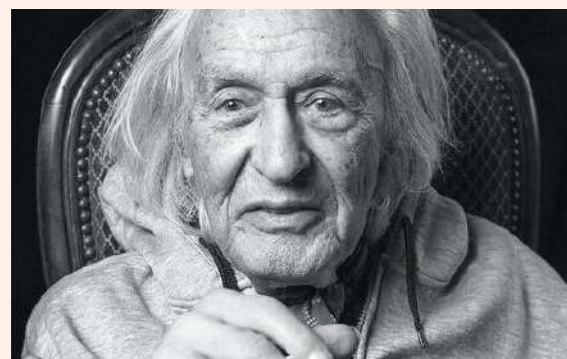
Liberman was shrewd to spot this, and Klein’s fashion shoots for *Vogue*, for which he worked for a decade from 1955, ushered in a new look to distinguish it from the era of photographers such as Cecil Beaton.

Klein was, in fact, following in the footsteps of Weegee, the celebrated crime photographer, and Lisette Model, whose caustic photographs of bathers in Coney Island also inspired Diane Arbus. In turn, Klein’s aggressive style influenced the Magnum photographers Martin Parr and Bruce Gilden.

But Klein’s New York work always suffered from being compared with Robert Frank’s *The Americans*, which was published shortly afterwards. Frank’s quieter, more introspective photographs earned him a place at the high table of American photography, whereas Klein’s loud voice saw the prophet sidelined in his homeland.

Drawn to cinema as much as photography, he went to Italy to work as an assistant to Federico Fellini on *Le Notti di Cabiria* (*Nights of Cabiria*, 1957), published a book of photos of Rome (1959), and followed this with further city photo books, *Moscow* (1964) and *Tokyo* (1964).

He returned to New York to make *Broadway By Light* (1958), a bold, visually graphic film of Broadway’s neon blackboard that Klein claimed was the first pop art film. Back in Paris, he worked as an artistic consultant on *Zazie dans le Métro* (1960), directed by Louis Malle.



He made a documentary for French television on the photographer Richard Avedon and the model Suzy Parker, and another about voting behaviour in a referendum, which was pulled, hours before transmission, by the French ministry of information. These experiences led to his film *Who Are You, Polly Maggoo?* (1966), ridiculing the fashion industry and the business of television.

Klein decided to make a film on Muhammad Ali and, in 1964, flew to Miami for the fight between Ali (then still Cassius Clay) and Sonny Liston. He saw Malcolm X sitting on his own on the plane and took a seat beside him. By the time they landed, his new friend had guaranteed Klein great access to film Ali. (“Malcolm spread the word that I was all right. I could do anything I wanted.”) He later combined the resulting short, *Cassius le Grand* (1964), with his footage of Ali’s 1974 triumph over George Foreman in the rumble in the jungle in Zaire for a two-stage documentary, *Muhammad Ali: The Greatest*, released in 1975.

Klein continued making films, mainly satirical documentaries, through to the end of the century. In the 1980s, he resumed his closeup, high-contrast black-and-white photography, and would present these elegantly shrill prints framed with the thick, red marks of a chinagraph pencil.

In some respects, Klein was an outsider all his life. A year after his birth, his parents, who were Jewish immigrants, lost their clothing business in the Wall Street crash.

A precocious student, Klein graduated from high school three years early and studied sociology at City College, New York. He joined the army in 1945 and was posted to Germany, where he worked as a cartoonist on the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, then moved to Paris, making the city his home for much of the rest of his life.

In 2012 he received the outstanding contribution to photography award at the Sony World Photography awards, and that year had three exhibitions in the UK, including a joint show with the Japanese photographer Daidō Moriyama at Tate Modern in London. His work was shown most recently in the retrospective *William Klein: YES Photographs, Paintings, Films 1948-2013*, which opened at the International Center of Photography, New York, in June.

He married Jeanne Florin in 1948, having met her on his second day in Paris. She died in 2005. Klein is survived by their son, Pierre, and his sister Caryl.
Michael Collins

William Klein, photographer and film-maker, born 19 April 1926; died 10 September 2022

Drummie Zeb

Singer-songwriter, drummer and a founding member of the reggae group Aswad

Angus “Drummie Zeb” Gaye, who has died suddenly aged 62, was a founding member of Aswad, one of the most successful British reggae groups. Gaye’s propulsive drumming, which often incorporated intricate rolls peppered by striking rhythmic accents and sometimes uncommon time signatures, helped give Aswad a distinctive edge from their earliest beginnings in the mid-1970s. Gaye’s vocal skills and songwriting ability were also put to good use in the group, which he began fronting in the mid-90s.

However, even during the early phase in which the group strove to establish themselves in London’s burgeoning reggae scene, Gaye’s sporadic stints on lead vocals typically yielded exceptional results: the debut single, *Back to Africa* (1976), written by the keyboardist Courtney Hemmings, was sensitively delivered by Gaye at Hemmings’ request; *It’s Not Our Wish (That We Should Fight)* (1978), co-written with the bassist George Oban, and *Judgement Day* (1979), written by Gaye, gave voice to frustrations experienced by young black British people during a time of heightened racial tension, while venerating the Rastafari faith that gave solace to Gaye and his fellow band members.

Aswad, the name meaning black in Arabic, originally comprised

the vocalist Brinsley Forde, Oban, Hemmings, the guitarist Donald Griffiths and the keyboardist Tony “Gad” Robinson, as well as the harmonica player Bunny McKenzie, though Robinson was absent when the group convinced Island Records’ Richard Williams to sign them for their self-titled debut in 1976, the band being too big to allow for two keyboardists. The following year, UK concert dates backing the Jamaican reggae band Burning Spear significantly raised the band’s profile, especially after the performance at the Rainbow theatre in London was released by Island as a live album.

Such live musical backing of top Jamaican acts – they also accompanied Dennis Brown – helped to legitimise British reggae in general, as well as the band. Island Records then sent Aswad to Jamaica, where Gaye played drums for the visionary producer Augustus Pablo and the bassist/producer Robbie Shakespeare as well as Burning Spear; he subsequently played drums on Bob Marley’s *Punky Reggae Party*, while the unusual drum pattern he devised for Janet Kay’s heartbroken *Silly Games* helped the song to reach No 2 on the UK pop charts in the summer of 1979.

After Aswad slimmed to a trio of Forde, Gaye and Robinson in the early 80s, and took a more commercial direction, Gaye’s sympathetic cover of Don’t Turn Around (a Tina Turner B-side that became a hit for Luther Ingram) topped the British pop charts in the

spring of 1988, and a likable take of Stephen Bishop’s MOR ballad *On and On* reached the UK Top 25 in the summer of 1989. Once Forde opted to pursue a solo career in the mid-90s, the tall and charismatic Gaye naturally became Aswad’s frontman, his quietly expressive voice subsequently becoming the focus.

Born in London to immigrant parents from Grenada and Carriacou, Gaye was raised in Ladbroke Grove, west London, where he attended Holland Park school. He began drumming after a cousin with a drumkit became a lodger at the family home, and after mastering the instrument as a teenager, became the kit drummer in a local steel-pan band, the Metronomes. Shortly after, in 1975, he joined Aswad.

Aswad’s second studio album, *Hulet* (1979), saw Hemmings replaced by Robinson, and the band members using appellations from the Twelve Tribes of Israel according to their Rastafari faith, with Gaye credited as “Drummie Zeb” (Zebulun). However, the release failed to find its potential audience, prompting a shift to CBS that yielded the breakthrough LPs *New Chapter* (1981) and *Not Satisfied* (1982), by which time Oban had left, prompting Robinson to handle bass duties.

Following Forde’s lead role in the film *Babylon* (1981), whose soundtrack featured the rousing Aswad instrumental *Warrior Charge*, the group launched the Simba label, its inaugural issue being Johnny Osbourne’s hard-hitting *13 Dead (Nothing Said)*, which commented on the woeful government response to the New Cross fire in 1981, in which 13 young black people died at a birthday party in south-east London.

The next year, the dub album *A New Chapter of Dub* heralded their return to Island, and by the time the label issued the concert album *Live and Direct!*, recorded at the Notting Hill carnival in 1983, Gaye’s son Solomon was making sporadic live appearances with the group as a rapper.

Island would also handle the albums *Distant Thunder* (1988) and *Too Wicked* (1990), the group subsequently launching their own Bubblin’ label for self-produced work, achieving a Top 5 chart success in the summer of 1994 with the optimistic *Shine*, which celebrated black self-determination.

After Forde went solo, Gaye and Robinson kept Aswad active as a touring and recording unit, with releases significantly less frequent. Their final studio album was *City Lock*, released in 2009.

Gaye is survived by six children.
David Katz

Drummie Zeb (Angus Gaye), drummer, singer-songwriter and record producer, born 24 September 1959; died 2 September 2022

Birthdays

Today’s birthdays: **Shirley Ballas**, dancer and coach, 62; **Lord (Alec) Broers**, electrical engineer, 84; **Kyle Chandler**, actor, 57; **Jennifer Dickson**, artist and photographer, 86; **Ken Doherty**, snooker player, 53; **Kim Fletcher**, media commentator and former editor, 66; **Damon Hill**, racing driver and commentator, 62; **Hope Larson**, illustrator, 40; **Jonathan Lord**, Conservative MP, 60; **Baz Luhrmann**, film director, 60; **Des Lynam**, broadcaster, 80; **Shabana Mahmood**, Labour MP, 42; **Deborah Mattinson**, co-founder and director, BritainThinks, 66; **Reinhold Messner**, mountaineer, 78; **Narendra Modi**, prime minister of India, 72; **Lars Nittve**, founding director, Tate Modern, 69; **Maureen Paley**, gallery director, 63; **David Shrigley**, artist, 54; **Dame Ingrid Simler**, appeal court judge, 59; **Lord (Indarjit) Singh**, editor, Sikh Messenger, 90; **Richard Young**, photographer, 75.

Tomorrow’s birthdays: **Russ Abbot**, comedian, 75; **Lance Armstrong**, cyclist, 51; **Frankie Avalon**, singer and actor, 82; **The Right Rev Paul Butler**, bishop of Durham, 67; **Sol Campbell**, footballer, 48; **Joanne Catherall**, singer, 60; **Dame Siobhan Davies**, dancer and choreographer, 72; **Tara Fitzgerald**, actor, 55; **Darren Gough**, cricketer, 52; **Sid Griffin**, musician and writer, 67; **Prof Helena Hamerow**, archaeologist, 61; **Tim McInnerny**, actor, 66; **Anna Netrebko**, operatic soprano, 51; **Meredith Oakes**, playwright, 76; **Lisa Osofsky**, director, Serious Fraud Office, 61; **Derek Pringle**, cricketer and journalist, 64; **Dizzee Rascal (Dylan Mills)**, rapper and songwriter, 38; **Sir Christopher Ricks**, scholar of English, 89; **Ronaldo**, footballer, 46; **Peter Shilton**, footballer, 73.

Announcements

Deaths

DOESER, Bernie. Reader, art lover, beekeeper. Died 31 August 2022, aged 68. Much loved husband of Kathy, loving dad of Anna and James. Enquiries to www.pendlefunerals.org.uk.

MACKARILL (nee PAICE), Diana Ruth, widow of Francis Mackarill, passed away peacefully on 17 August 2022, aged 100. Funeral service will be held at Reading Crematorium on Thursday 22 September at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired in memory of Diana for the UN Refugee Agency may be made via memorygiving.com/dianaruthmackarill. Enquiries to AB Walker 0118-957 3650.

PLATT, Tim, artist, on 23 August, 76, in Kings College Hospital, London. Father of Jos and Toby, brother of Andrew. No funeral. Private celebration to follow. Contact andrewjohnplatt@gmail.com.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, email us at announcements@theguardian.com including your name, address and telephone number or phone 0203 353 2114.



Drummie Zeb, centre, with fellow Aswad members in 1986 ILPO MUSTO/REX

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Other lives

Donald McAlpine

Co-founder of the McAlpine Dance School in south London and Royal Ballet School scholarship winner
My father, Donald McAlpine, who has died aged 91, set up the McAlpine Dance School in south London in the early 1970s with my mother, Phyllida.

Generations of local children and their parents had cause to thank him for his enthusiastic and inclusive teaching style, which focused as much on the artistry of dance and appreciation of music as it did on nurturing technical excellence. His enthusiasm for dance remained undimmed across the years, and he often appeared on stage with his young proteges in the school's annual shows, even up to the year of his death.

Donald was born and grew up in Auckland, New Zealand, where his father, Peter, and mother, Dorothy (nee Litchfield), ran a pub. He went to Auckland grammar school but also attended a dance school, and at the age of 19 travelled to London to take up a scholarship at the Royal Ballet School.

He had barely started his studies there when Dame Ninette de Valois asked him, in 1949, to join Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, where he worked with choreographers including Frederick Ashton and

John Cranko before joining the Festival Ballet (now the English National Ballet) to become a soloist, in the classics as well as new ballets such as Jack Carter's *The Witch Boy*.

At Festival Ballet he met and married Phyllida (nee Porter), a fellow dancer, and they toured the world with the company. After my sister, Fiona, and I came along, in 1964 Donald joined Harlequin Ballet, a Chelsea-based dance company, which gave him the freedom to develop his love for choreography as well as becoming principal dancer. He went on to join the English National Opera in 1970, taking on various dancing and acting roles in each of its operas, mainly at the London Coliseum.

He and Phyllida set up their school in 1972 in Stockwell, eventually moving to new premises in Camberwell in 1993. The success of the school, which is still going, owed much to Donald's exuberant personality, and the joy he brought to so many young dancers is his real legacy.

He was supremely fit until the end. In 2021 the documentary photographer Steve Reeves photographed him on one of his customary walks on Clapham Common. "I watched as Donald strode up the hill," he wrote. "He walked without a stick and his posture put mine to shame. It was hard to believe he was 91 and I wondered if it wasn't too late for me to take up ballet."

Donald is survived by Phyllida, Fiona and me, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
Louisa McAlpine



The success of the school and the joy he brought to so many young dancers is his real legacy

Born in New Zealand, Donald McAlpine came to Britain as a student and was quickly recruited to Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet



Anni Rainbow

Passionate peace campaigner who co-founded the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases
My friend Anni Rainbow, who has died aged 73, was a Quaker, peace campaigner and activist.

Anni was born in Kensington, London, and grew up in Tolworth, Surrey, where her adoptive father nurtured her love of books, poetry and Shakespeare. She was a gifted artist, potter and sculptor with an eclectic taste in music. A strong swimmer, Anni belonged to Kingston Ladies swimming club, representing Surrey in her teens. But while she was on a Guide camp, a van accident caused her back and hip injuries and lifelong disability.

Concerned about militarism during the Vietnam war, Anni went on the 1968 anti-war march at which mounted police charged protesters in Grosvenor Square,

central London. A stalwart of the Crawley night watch group, set up to enable the women at Greenham Common women's peace camp to get some sleep, others appreciated her calm, dependable nature and ironic wit.

Anni had two sons, Matthew and Simon, with Robin Cornish, whom she married in 1977. The marriage ended in divorce in 1985. She later moved to Otley, West Yorkshire, supported the Quaker body Northern Friends Peace Board and joined Otley Peace Action Group.

In 1992 she co-founded, with the peace campaigner Lindis Percy, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, organising protests at Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire and other places, and holding Quaker meetings and raising parliamentary questions about the secrecy of all American military activities in Britain. Despite significant health issues she campaigned in all weathers - blizzards never dulled her sense of humour and infectious chuckle.

Her father died in 1982 and her son Matthew, a corporal in the 1st Light Infantry, was killed in Basra in 2006. Shortly after, Anni suffered a stroke, which aggravated her disabilities, and she moved to

Alne Hall residential home near York where she continued to speak truth to power.

Anni is survived by Simon, her grandchildren, Ethan and Libby, and a brother, Chris.

Melanie Ndzinga



Jan Dewing

Nursing leader and academic who modernised care, particularly for people living with dementia
My friend Jan Dewing, who has died aged 61 of ovarian cancer, was the Sue Pembrey chair in nursing and director of the Centre for Person-centred Practice Research at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, where she was also head of the university's graduate research school.

Jan was a leading scholar in person-centred practice, with a particular focus on care services for people living with dementia; she worked to ensure care was

delivered in a way that respected who the person was and not according to a clinical diagnosis.

She published extensively and was editor-in-chief of the journal *Nursing Philosophy* from 2020 and the founding editor of *The International Practice Development Journal*.

Born in Gateshead, to Joan (nee Burnside), a tailoress, and John, a diesel fitter for British Rail, Jan was educated at Heathfield senior school and qualified as a nurse from Gateshead School of Nursing in 1982. She received a BSc from the Open University (1992), a master's in nursing from University of Wales (1993) and a PhD from Manchester University (2007) as well as an MA in English literature and film from Harvard University in 2013.

Jan held a variety of clinical and academic positions. She worked first as a coronary care nurse, in Gateshead and Oxford, and then moved into disability services in Oxfordshire as a senior nurse manager. From 1990 she held an associated lectureship at Oxford Brookes University, and was hospital manager at Burford Community hospital. There she carried forward the work of the Nursing Development Unit, for which the hospital had an

international reputation and, with me, co-led the extension of this work across all 11 community hospitals in Oxfordshire.

In 2002 she became a consultant nurse in therapeutic nursing and rehabilitation at Milton Keynes, and from 2004 to 2006 was a senior fellow at the Royal College of Nursing Institute, focused on work-based learning, practice development and research with older people and people living with dementia. She was professor of person-centred research and practice development at Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, from 2010, before taking up the professorship in Edinburgh in 2015.

Anyone who met Jan came to know that nothing would be left to chance, and everything was open to debate. She saw it as her role as an educator, critical thinker and friend to ensure that "established truths" were not allowed to become dominant dogma.

Jan was devoted to her dog, Billie. She had an infectious sense of humour and a passion for northern soul.

She is survived by her partner, Jane, her brothers, John, Tom and Keith, and her sister, Margaret.
Brendan McCormack

Sudoku

Easy

Medium

Expert

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9.

7		4	3		8
9		7	6		1
	5		8	9	
7 6					4 3
	9			8	
5 1					2 9
	7		3	1	
8		6	4		2
	5	2	9		7

		1			9
		2 5	4		
4		3		1	
		8		9	
4 8			5	3 6	
1				5	2
7 3		4			
	9	7			
	4 6			7	

	2	1			7 5
5		9			3
	3	5		6	
			9		4
6					2
7		2		8	
	4		1		
3		2			8
2 7			8	5	

Futoshiki

Medium

Fill in the grid so that every row and column contains the numbers 1-5. The “greater than” or “less than” signs indicate where a number is larger or smaller than its neighbour.

<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> < <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> < <input type="checkbox"/>
				V
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V				^
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V	V			
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		V	^	
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Kids Word search

Find all the listed Martial Arts in the grid, reading in straight lines, up, down or diagonally, either backwards or forwards.

AIKIDO, BELT, BODY, BOUT, COMBAT, DOJO, FIGHT,
GRADE, JUDO, KENDO, MAT, NINJA, SKILL, THROW

C	S	C	Y	F	W	E	B	E
O	R	S	B	O	D	Y	E	E
M	D	R	N	A	J	A	L	W
B	O	N	R	F	I	O	T	O
A	D	G	E	K	I	U	D	R
T	U	S	I	K	O	G	E	H
E	J	D	C	B	L	R	H	T
N	O	A	S	K	I	L	L	T
A	J	N	I	N	T	A	M	S

Kids Countdown

Can you work out the answers to the sums below?

Easy
8
+ 40
÷ 4
+ 16
÷ 7
× 10
- 20
Half of it
× 3
÷ 5
Answer

Medium
27
- 18
× 4
- 27
Treble it
+ 23
÷ 10
+ 49
2/3 of it
- 28
Answer

Hard
67
+ 83
<i>60% of it</i>
- 39
<i>Third of it</i>
+ 87
÷ 13
+ 198
<i>Half of it</i>
+ 137
Answer

Solutions

Kids Countdown

Easy: 6
Medium: 8
Hard: 240

Sudoku Easy

1	7	6	4	9	3	2	8	5
9	8	2	7	5	6	4	3	1
3	4	5	1	8	2	9	6	7
6	2	7	8	3	5	1	9	4
8	9	1	6	7	4	3	5	2
4	5	3	2	1	9	6	7	8

Sudoku Medium

5	7	3	5
4	2	8	4
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
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6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
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7	3	5	2
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8	9	1	6
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4	2	8	4
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6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
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8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4
5	7	3	5
6	9	1	6
2	8	4	2
4	6	1	9
5	2	8	5
7	3	5	2
3	2	8	5
8	9	1	6
6	5	7	3
4	2	8	4

Sudoku Expert

6	5	9	6
8	7	1	4
7	3	2	7
3	8	6	3
4	7	5	1
9	3	9	7
7	8	6	9
5	4	3	2
1	2	5	3
2	6	8	9
3	7	1	4
4	8	2	5
5	9	3	6
6	1	4	7
7	2	5	8
8	3	6	9
9	4	7	1
1	5	8	2
2	6	9	3
3	7	1	4
4	8	2	5
5	9	3	6
6	1	4	7
7	2	5	8
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9	4	7	1
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8	3	6	9
9	4	7	1
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3	7	1	4
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5	9	3	6
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9	4	7	1
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7	2	5	8

Futoshiki

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \boxed{1} & \boxed{4} & \boxed{2} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{5} & & \\
 & \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 \boxed{5} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{4} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{2} & & \\
 & & & \downarrow & \downarrow & & \\
 \boxed{4} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{2} & \boxed{3} & & \\
 & \downarrow & & & \downarrow & & \\
 \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{4} & & \\
 & \downarrow & & & \downarrow & & \\
 \boxed{3} & \boxed{2} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{4} & \boxed{1} & &
 \end{array}$$

Kids Word search

[illegible]

Yesterday's solutions

Killer sudoku

4	7	8	9	5	2	3	6	1
2	6	1	7	3	4	5	9	8
3	9	5	8	6	1	7	2	4
5	4	6	2	7	3	1	8	9
9	8	3	4	1	5	2	7	6
7	1	2	6	9	8	4	3	5
6	2	9	1	4	7	8	5	3
1	5	7	3	8	6	9	4	2
8	3	4	5	2	9	6	1	7

Medium

9	4	6	8	1	5	2	7	3
5	7	2	3	6	4	1	8	9
1	3	8	2	7	9	6	5	4
4	2	7	5	3	1	8	9	6
6	5	3	9	8	7	4	2	1
8	9	1	6	4	2	5	3	7
2	6	5	1	9	3	7	4	8
7	1	9	4	2	8	3	6	5
3	8	4	7	5	6	9	1	2

Codeword

O	E	S	I	A	T
E	X	A	M	I	N
E	I	O	E	T	T
A	N	T	S	W	R
S	Y	E			
A	F	F	I	X	D
O	V	G	T	S	M
F	R	E	E	Z	E
G	R	H	A	I	
C	O	X	C	O	M
H	U	Y			
S	O	J	O	U	R
N	P	I	U	A	O
Q	U	I	P		
S	Y	E	P	A	M

Cryptic crossword

S	A	B	O	T	A	G	E		B	R	E	W	E	R
I	E	O	O		O				E	E				
M	O	M	E	N	T	U	M		N	U	C	L	E	
I	U	S	P	S	N	L	N							
L	A	S	S	O		I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E	S
E	E	R	N	P		O	U							
			S	I	X	F	E	E	T	U	N	D	E	R
E	S	A	L	R	N	O	E							
D	E	V	I	L	M	A	C	A	R	E				
E	E		M	I	E	A	A							
N	O	N	P	A	R	E	I	L		F	O	C	U	S
T	G	L	S	I	I	A	S							
A	T	A	X	I	C		C	O	R	N	I	C	E	
T	L	B		U	E	I	T							
E	L	I	C	I	T		U	S	E	D	C	A	R	S
R	S													

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Killer sudoku

Hard No 831

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

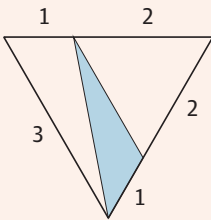
10			28			12	6	
19			18				11	28
20				4	7			
	11				11	18		23
			8					
	12				17		12	22
9	21						21	
			23	20				
				9			5	

Chris Maslanka's puzzles

Pyrgic puzzles

- 1 Pedanticus was sad to hear of the death of Jean-Luc Godard, but he burst out laughing after his most famous film was mentioned on the news. Why might that have been?
- 2 Andy was stuck on the last question of this week's homework:
For what values of x (x is a positive integer) is $y = \sqrt{(1 + 4x)}$ a whole number?
- Luckily Candy had a few helpful ideas. What might they have been? What is the spectrum of possible values of y ? (The allowed values of y listed in order ...)
- 3 Garabaggio's *Flash*, currently on show at Rogues's Gallery on Poppycock Terrace, is (according to the catalogue) an equilateral triangle cut by straight lines into 3 smaller triangles. I've jotted down the size of the segments into which these two lines cut the

sides. Great Art it is not, as Brian Seewell points out, but it does suggest easy mathematical questions. What fraction of the whole does each triangle take up?



- 4 There are 10 pupils in Maths Club. How many distinct ways are there of lining them up if Bert and Kurt have to be kept apart?
- 5 Find a six-digit number which is reduced by a fifth of itself if you transfer its last digit (a 5) to the front of it.
- email: maslanka@easynet.co.uk

Wordplay

- Wordpool**
In each case find the correct definition:
- MEGAPTERINE**
a) humpback whale
b) someone with very large hands
c) any large raptor of the Jurassic
d) pterodactyl
- GNON**
a) particle that has just self-annihilated
b) proto-vegetable from the Eocene
c) peg for jointing
d) apex of angle of lower jaw
- CORRIVATE**
a) crow-like
b) to match a rival move by move
c) to align by means of parallel grooves
d) to cause to flow together
- Wordcentre**
Identify this word from its centre: **TEAT**
- Dropouts**
Replace each asterisk by a letter to make a word: T*I*E*R*

- E Pluribus Unum**
Rearrange the letters of TORY GOALS to make a single word.
- 3-4-5**
What Arnold Schwarzenegger initially used to be (3)
Vehicle reversing at eleven (4)
Birds of the green sea, lacking in RNA (5)
- Cracker Barrel**
What do you call a man who wears more than one raincoat?
- Missing Links**
Find a word that follows the first word in the clue and precedes the second, in each case making a fresh word or phrase. Eg the answer to *fish mix* could be *cake* (*fishcake* & *cake mix*) and to *bat man* it could be *he* (*bathe* & *he-man*)...
- a) cabbage work b) button soup
c) even bird d) cupboard man
e) butterfly zero f) football pie

©CMM 2022. Solutions on Page 62

Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,865 set by Paul

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11												12		
16		17												
18														
21						22			23					
25														
27														

- Across**
- 1 Horse observed that has teeth (7)
- 5 Chap keen to stay in Keaton film about slapstick, originally (7)
- 9 No more breakfast (5)
- 10 Tasty little French thing, is it? Hubby, pack your bags! (9)
- 11 Slate rocks on river in South African city (4,6)
- 12 Vessel always filled with water, primarily (4)
- 14 Relative, 4 1 down, cruelly? (6-2-3)
- 18,19 14 seen as wicked? What a ridiculous question! (3,6,2,1,5)
- 21 Drink got bigger (4)
- 22 A school and hospital I built to accommodate parking for one ever present on the high street? (10)
- 25 Expecting pudding, he put salad first (2,3,4)
- 26 Sweet mint sauce's back (5)
- 27 Indian greeting some poets, a mantra recalled (7)
- 28 Operatic bride, South American girl (7)

- Down**
- 1 Murder king, despatching a murderous leader (6)
- 2 Vulgar line recited? (6)
- 3 Small town deal (10)
- 4 She obtained nursing degree (5)
- 5 Belt required when stout, with nothing left to tuck in (9)
- 6 Bay, perhaps, where thoroughfare is out of bounds (4)
- 7 Second working rule drawn up before end of week, reversing move by Jackson? (8)
- 8 Fastener on top, new dark colour (3-5)
- 13 Wife seen embracing that man in taxicab after vacation, fail to grasp opportunity (4,3,3)
- 15 Drag first of hostages inside worthless residence (4,5)
- 16 Great performance set in motion to take Ashes trophy (4,4)
- 17 Where one has relocated male article (4,4)
- 19 See 18
- 20 Eye part clears after treatment (6)
- 23 Birds dropping in light gusts of wind (5)
- 24 Hobbit's central characters, drones perhaps (4)

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How many times a week do you buy the Guardian? _____

How many times a month do you buy the Observer? _____



The first five correct entries drawn each week win a copy of The Language Lover's Puzzle Book by Alex Bellos

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 28,865, P.O. Box 17566, Birmingham, B33 3EZ, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by Friday.

Solution and winners in The Guardian on Monday 26 September.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____

Eddie Butler
Timeless voice of rugby



Page 10 →

'It has to be a habit'
Conte says Spurs need ambition



Page 9 →

Sport

+ Golovkin in Canelo's sights for trilogy bout

Page 16 →

Mind the gap

Will more money tear women's game apart?
By Jonathan Liew

Page 2 →



Repentant Hales ready to grab his 'chance to right the wrongs'



Andy Bull
Karachi

Alex Hales' drive home from the England training camp in Cardiff in April 2019 felt like the longest journey of his life. That morning England's former managing director, Ashley Giles, had told Hales he was being kicked out of England's World Cup squad because he had failed a second recreational drugs test.

Hales packed and left without talking to any of his teammates. He was convinced his career was over. He says it was his "lowest moment". Three years and four months later he is back in the England squad, as a late replacement for the injured Jonny

Bairstow. "This feels like a second chance," he says, "a chance to right the wrongs."

There have been a few of them. Last November photos emerged of Hales wearing blackface while dressed as Tupac Shakur at a party in 2009. He apologised then and does so again now. "I was a dumb 19-year-old who had no idea of the ramifications," he says.

"I was just trying to dress as my music idol without really knowing the offence it would cause. When those images got released it was very shameful." At the same time he was accused by Azeem Rafiq of naming his dog 'Kevin' in reference to a catch-all name to describe black and brown players.

Hales strongly denied there were any racial connotations to

the name and says it was "dealt with internally" in an investigation by the England and Wales Cricket Board, "and everyone is happy". England's captain, Jos Buttler, says all the senior players in the current squad agreed with the decision to recall him.

It has taken Hales a long time to win back their trust. Some of those relationships, like the one with his former captain Eoin Morgan, who said Hales had shown a "complete disregard" for the team's values, will never be the same. Hales says they have not really spoken since, despite playing against each other. He is honest enough to admit that he felt a lot of anger at the time. "But who can you be angry at really? It was my fault, wasn't it? I was the one

After Wembley comes a battle for the soul of women's game in England

There is danger ahead if the WSL follows the Premier League and ends up a toxic money-driven arms race to the top for the biggest clubs

Jonathan Liew



Rule number one of English football: when Leah Williamson tells you to do something, you do it. Particularly when she is screaming it at you over the din over 90,000 supporters at Wembley. “We want them to come to WSL games!” she yelled of the 17 million viewers watching the triumphant climax of the Euro 2022 final on the BBC.

Happily, the public have taken Williamson’s advice to heart. Something has changed here. Last night, Arsenal and Brighton kicked off the new Super League season with a sell-out at Meadow Park. Manchester City have already sold 20,000 tickets for their derby against Manchester United in December.

Aston Villa’s season ticket sales are up 108%. And although the death of the Queen scuppered last weekend’s big opening, the stage is now set for the latest chapter in one of British sport’s outstanding success stories: a game that over the decades has built itself up

from enforced extinction to create something fresh, exciting and joyful.

Now for the delicate part. With the euphoria of Wembley now a cherished memory, the arm wrestle over its legacy has begun. Never have there been so many competing visions of what women’s football should look like in this country. Everyone agrees on the imperative to “grow the game”. But how that growth should be generated and whom it should primarily benefit: these are questions that will be resolved in the coming months, questions that will define the soul of the sport.

Within hours of England’s win over Germany, the Chelsea manager Emma Hayes had used her column in the Telegraph to demand a radical rethink of English women’s football. Hayes called for the WSL to be run along similar lines to the Premier League, a breakaway body geared towards maximising the commercial potential of the top clubs, seeking “investment from corporations and partners and sponsors” that would create a “trickle-down” effect through the game. “I’ve always been an advocate of the women’s game becoming a business,” she would say later. “I think we’ve now entered that phase.”

Hayes is by no means alone in conceiving women’s football in terms of a lucrative start-up. “It’s a literal gold mine,” said

▼ *Georgia Stanway (right) left Manchester City for Bayern Munich during the summer transfer window*
ACTION PRESS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Megan Rapinoe in a Guardian interview last month. The Denmark international Pernille Harder, meanwhile, has spoken in glowing terms of the spiralling transfer fees at the top end of the women’s game, saying: “I think it’s good for women’s football to get the money rolling. It shows that it keeps developing.” Naturally, there are multiple strands to this debate. Hayes’s job is to advocate for her club, currently striving to push the boundaries, to attract the world’s best players to London, to compete not just at domestic but European level. The departures of Keira Walsh to Barcelona and Georgia Stanway to Bayern Munich suggest that English clubs are still some way behind the cream of Europe in terms of prestige and pull.

But further down the pyramid, where salaries are barely liveable and training invariably has to fit around work, you hear a very different perspective on growth. “What is the purpose?” asks Maggie Murphy, CEO of Lewes FC. “Is it just entertainment, is it a business? Because if so, then at some point Lewes FC will fall off and die. If decisions are made that just require more and more money on unfeasibly short timelines, we won’t be able to keep up. So for us, it’s an existential question.” Lewes play in the second-tier Championship, one of the few teams at the elite end of the game not tied to a big men’s club. They are fan-owned, generate all their own revenue and are still the only club in the UK to split it equally between men’s and women’s sides. Attendances have quadrupled in three seasons. If you wanted to design and run a women’s football club from scratch, Lewes would be your starting point.

“We’re more than just football. We’re football, plus community, plus purpose,” says Murphy. “Often I’m jealous of other clubs’ funding, and then I meet some of the staff that work at those clubs, and they’re jealous of our environment, our town, our community. You can’t falsify that stuff.” Murphy sits on the board of the WSL and Championship, which means that the coming months bring some tough conversations. The Football Association runs the women’s game at all levels in England but is preparing to let go of the WSL competition it inaugurated in 2011. Advertisements will shortly go out for a new independent chief executive to run a standalone WSL and Championship.

The FA would retain a share for three years, but ultimately leave the future in the hands of the biggest women’s clubs, which to an increasing degree also happen to be the biggest men’s clubs.

Liverpool’s promotion means that the top nine clubs in last season’s Premier League are also represented in this season’s WSL. (Aston Villa, Everton and Reading are the others.) This is the crystallisation of a long-term trend: while the inaugural WSL seasons saw Bristol Academy, Doncaster Belles and Lincoln grace the top flight, over time the gravity of men’s football has imperiously asserted itself. Arsenal, Chelsea



‘You can’t just assume that more money is a good thing. I’m not sure it necessarily is’

and Manchester City have occupied the top three places in every WSL season since 2015. Tottenham, Manchester United and West Ham have belatedly begun to invest. Newcastle, who have made women’s football a priority under their new ownership, will not stay in the fourth tier for long.

Lewes do not have a big benefactor, and have powered themselves into the second tier entirely through membership, sponsorship and matchday



**Punching
above
their
weight**

Lewes take on Southampton in the second tier. The Sussex club do not have a major benefactor
STEVE BARDENS/
THE FA/GETTY



revenue. If women's football ends up locked in a toxifying spiral of spending and profit, an arms race to the top, they will simply be unable to compete.

"One of the ironies is that the better women's football gets, the more dependent it becomes on men's football to finance that ambition," says Murphy. "You can't just assume that more money is a good thing. If it's not paired with good governance and equal decision-making and diversity,

then I'm not sure it necessarily is. If the assumption is that more money at any cost is good, we'll start to see some dodgy investing that could tear at the fabric of the culture we've built."

The woman with the unenviable job of finding a compromise between these competing visions is Baroness Campbell, the FA's head of women's football. "I'd love to give you a really simple answer, but there isn't one," she admits. "What we don't want is the head leaving the body. What we're selling to broadcasters and sponsors is a competitive league, not four or five teams. And therefore growing the whole thing is important. We've got to take everybody on this journey. I think we all understand that."

There are radical solutions on the table. Equalising prize money in the FA Cup would have the potential to transform smaller clubs in the space of a single afternoon. A progressive redistribution of broadcast revenue - weighted towards clubs further down the pyramid - would be more transformative still. But as the Brighton director Michelle Walder admitted to SportsPro: "Nobody is necessarily going to want to fund their competitor who might get them relegated. So it's a balance."

These are questions that stray into the realm of the ideological. But then women's football has always been an ideological thing: imagined from its very earliest days as an alternative culture, a struggle against traditional power, the simple idea that existence could be resistance. That ethos persists to this day. By and large women's football is a diverse and safe space, its people approachable and relatable, the product largely uncontaminated by tribalism and abuse, crypto scams and super-agents.

In fairness, retaining the unique culture of women's football is a priority that almost everyone agrees on. More importantly, the top players - virtually all of whom emerged from obscurity through an underfunded system - are united on the importance of furnishing the whole pathway. Arsenal's defender Lotte Wubben-Moy was behind the open letter from the Lionesses to Liz Truss, demanding greater investment in school sport. "They're very grounded and very authentic," says Campbell. "They're proud to put on that England shirt, they're proud to put on their club shirt. But they want to keep the thing whole."

Which is why the next eight months of conflict, conversation and consensus are so critical. The Lionesses have shown what is possible when you invest in the top end of the women's game. Meanwhile, the WSL's big three are streaking off into the distance. Growing the game in a way that gives everyone else a chance: this is the battle ahead. And never has there been a more apposite moment to disprove rule number two of English football: eventually, money finds a way through.

WSL watchers

How not to miss a kick this season

Going to games

Live WSL football represents excellent value. Take season tickets: the champions Chelsea - based at Kingsmeadow in Kingston-upon-Thames - offer league-only deals for £49 to adults and £5 to juniors and seniors. Tottenham's adult prices are £70 and promoted Liverpool's are £60 - with juniors and seniors paying £35. Meanwhile, Manchester City sell adult season tickets at £58-£68 - or £40-£45 for seniors and £27 for under-16s. For a flavour of the cost of a one-off ticket, Chelsea charge adults £10 to sit and £9 to stand, with concessions £2 and £1, respectively.

Games are staged across the weekend from 7.30pm some Fridays to 6.45pm-7pm every Sunday evening, with at least one match on Saturday lunchtime and the remainder kicking off between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday afternoons.

An increasing number will take place at Premier League stadiums at various points. City use the 7,000-capacity Academy Stadium on the Etihad campus for most of their 11 home fixtures, but will hold December's Manchester derby with United (based at Leigh Sports Village) at the Etihad Stadium. Similarly, Arsenal play most games at Meadow Park in Borehamwood but the north London derby on 24 September is being held at the Emirates. Aston Villa usually run out at Walsall's Bescot Stadium but they will face City at Villa Park tomorrow. A week later Liverpool swap their customary match-day base at Tranmere's Prenton Park to meet Everton at Anfield.

Television and social media

The Football Association has signed a record broadcast deal, Sky Sports will transmit 35 WSL games exclusively live this season. Meanwhile, 22 matches will be free-to-air on the BBC and those not broadcast on television can be watched live on the FA Player. Highlights will be shown on BBC One on Sunday night.

With the Guardian

Our unrivalled WSL coverage includes a minimum of one match report per weekend, weekly talking points on Monday, and the return of our Women's Football Weekly podcast, which you can listen to every Tuesday. **Louise Taylor**



▲ *The WSL offers excellent value, a Chelsea season ticket is £49*



▲ *Forward Deyna Castellanos has joined City from Atlético Madrid*

ÁNGEL MARTÍNEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Taylor calls for patience after City's clearout

Suzanne Wrack

Gareth Taylor has said he understands the concern of Manchester City fans after a summer of change and has urged them to be patient as his new players get to grips with the league and setup.

"Yeah, I can understand it," the manager said. "I would ask them to be patient because we've really invested in the future with these [new] players. There's going to naturally be a fair-sized turnover at some point when you look at the nature of the group that left. They had given us really good service and three of the players had retired. With that, we had to be on the front foot with our recruitment and we were."

Before a 3-2 extra-time defeat by Chelsea in May's FA Cup final, City had won 13 games in a row in all competitions and lifted the Continental League Cup. That run lifted the pressure on Taylor, who had insisted there was "nothing for me to consider" when asked whether his position was in question after a humiliating 4-0 home defeat by Chelsea last November.

In defence of Taylor and his team, the squad was weakened by injuries, with Ellie Roebuck, Karen Bardsley, Steph Houghton, Chloe Kelly, Lucy Bronze and Esme Morgan among those who had spells out.

If the pressure was lifted by the season's close, then it is back on before the new campaign, which starts for City at Aston Villa tomorrow. City have lost a significant number of players in the transfer window, including three Euros winners in Lucy Bronze and Keira Walsh, who have joined Barcelona, and Georgia Stanway, who has moved to Bayern Munich. Other departures include the Olympic gold medallist Janine Beckie to Portland Thorns, Caroline Weir to Real Madrid and Jill Scott, Ellen White and Karen Bardsley, who have retired.

"The ones that have probably just put us a little bit on the back foot

were Ellen and Keira," said Taylor. "It's worth looking at why these players are being picked up. They are in a good place. Keira had given us eight years of service, had developed really well and wanted to take this challenge. We got a record fee for her, which shows we're doing something right."

To address the situation City have signed the Venezuela forward Deyna Castellanos and Laia Aleixandri from Atlético Madrid, Leila Ouahabi from Barcelona, the Australia youngster Mary Fowler from Montpellier, the goalkeeper Sandy MacIver from Everton, Kerstin Casparij from FC Twente and Yui Hasegawa from West Ham.

"I think we're in a good place," Taylor said. "We have lost experience and brought in players we think are very good for the future. We've probably lowered the average age quite a bit. You don't want to lose all the experience. There was varying circumstances with each of the players [that left]. The Ellen White retirement and Keira Walsh moving late was a bit of a jolt. Up until that point we were probably in a pretty good place."

"Then it left us with about a week

'It's worth looking at why these players are being picked up'

Gareth Taylor
Manchester City manager

or so when we realised Keira wanted to leave. We had to try and look at another position on the pitch to strengthen and we managed to do that with Yui Hasegawa, which we are really happy about. There are a lot of changes but we're pretty happy and content with where we're at."

In a message to supporters, he said: "We're really trying to be the best version of ourselves and these new players I really believe are top players we're bringing in to complement the high calibre of players we already have. I'm really excited about the future."

"You need to give them time. The difficult thing in the WSL is you don't have time in a 22-game season but I'm excited about this team regardless of what happens in the first few games. Whether we hit the ground running or whether we suffer a little bit, we want to change the view on what we think this team is capable of."

Little Warrior



Johana Gómez, 10-time reigning amateur boxing champion, is determined to pull herself and her family out of extreme poverty in Venezuela. Like Johana, more than 75% of the population there live below the poverty line. Through a chance online connection with Scottish boxing trainer Gary Young, Johana's hopes of reaching her potential start to take shape - despite the language barrier.



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DOCUMENTARIES

▼ Union Berlin had 6,500 members in 2010, they now have 40,000
MARTIN ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

'We can't stop changing': Union Berlin's fight to keep their cool

Bundesliga's shock leaders have had a popularity boom. Like the city's techno scene, the club has selective taste

Kit Holden

It takes about half an hour on the train to get from the centre of Berlin to Köpenick, and the journey is a game of two halves. The second half is a gentle rumble through the industrial, residential and woodland heartlands of Bundesliga club Union Berlin. The first is a sight-seeing tour of Berlin's world-famous nightlife.

After Alexanderplatz, the train pulls into Jannowitzbrücke, where a huge power station towers over the bank of the river. Behind it lies Tresor, an elder statesman of the city's techno scene, and the KitKatClub, famed for its fetish parties and strictly kinky dress code. As the train approaches Warschauer Straße station, the tracks and river part ways and an imposing grey building looms in the open sky over a low-build retail park. This is Berghain, the most famous of all Berlin clubs and a byword the world over for the city's taboo-free, 24-hour party culture. Its notoriously scrupulous door policy is an attraction in itself.

All these venues are close to where the Wall once stood and all of them were founded in the decade or so after reunification. They are places which grew out of that unique period in Berlin's history, when historical trauma and a sluggish economy meant the city was still full of unfilled spaces.

Nowadays, the spaces are disappearing and the clubs are surrounded by building sites, shiny new office blocks and shopping malls. Berlin has changed radically in the past 30 years, but few areas have been transformed quite as much as the central districts of the former East. More than any other, they have been subject to that familiar cycle of gentrification: a depressed area becomes a cultural hotspot, the culture brings cash and development, and slowly but surely people begin to be pushed out.

Union Berlin, whose home lies out in the leafy suburbs of the former East Berlin, are a world away from all of this. Yet as they have risen from lower-league obscurity

to the Europa League over the last decade, they too have come to face the same problems as the city's other major subcultures.

"If you have too many people who are only here as spectators, then eventually it won't be that great any more," says Christian Arbeit, the club's famous stadium announcer and spokesman, when I meet him in September 2021. He is talking about Union, but could just as well be talking about Berghain.

Arbeit has been the face of Union for more than a decade, and has seen both his club and his city boom in popularity during that time. He meets me in one of the stadium's beer gardens, and for the middle part of the interview, we have to shout at each other. It is the day before a matchday, and behind us, someone is testing the loudspeakers in the stadium. At one point, they play a well-known advert for a brand of Berlin beer that also happens to sponsor Union. A quickfire series of clips showing ravers, mechanics, dominatrixes and DJs is overlaid with the 2003 song Berlin, Du Bist So Wunderbar. With its slickly synthesised organ notes, hip-hop beat and scratchy vocals, the song is an anthem for Berlin's 21st-century self-image. It was released in 2003, the same year that mayor Klaus Wowereit famously described his city as "poor, but sexy".

When Arbeit first took the microphone, Union were more poor than sexy. They were still in the fourth division and reeling from the financial and footballing woes of the early 2000s. After their fan-led stadium renovation and promotion to the second division in 2009, however, they established themselves as the undisputed second force in Berlin behind western rivals Hertha BSC. They too became more prosperous, and footballing success quickly began to dovetail with the city's cultural cool. As beloved German DJ WestBam put it in an interview with FAZ newspaper in 2016: "Union are more techno than Hertha."

For a long time, Arbeit was part of that image. A guitar-playing,

bearded rabble rouser with shoulder length hair, he was a club spokesman tailor-made for a cult club. But the look has changed in recent years. When his hair was shaved off in the wild promotion celebrations of 2019, he decided not to grow it back. He wears shirts more often now, and seems more wary of over-romanticising Union.

"We don't do anything specifically to please other people. We can't help it if people like us," he says, and admits that it was not always comfortable when Union's popularity hit new heights in the mid-2010s. "There were plenty of people in the fan scene who saw that with a lot of scepticism."

By the time Union were promoted to the Bundesliga in 2019, the fans had long since expressed their disquiet. Two years earlier, when Union first challenged for

promotion, they raised a banner on the terraces reading "Shit! We're going up!"

They were only half joking. Success had never been part of Union's DNA, and there were genuine fears about whether they could maintain their identity as a fan-led, community club in the top flight. What if too much money and success changed the club? What if they changed it for the worse?

As well as concrete questions over sponsorship deals and ticket prices, that also meant concerns over who was coming to Union. Once you hit the mainstream, after all, being cool is a double-edged sword. As the spaces have filled in the urban landscape around the nightclubs, so too have they filled around the lifelong fans on the terraces at the Alte Försterei. In 2010, Union had 6,500 members. In the decade since,

they have grown exponentially to reach almost 40,000.

So, at what point is it no longer the same club; no longer the same city? At what point does "poor, but sexy" cease to be a description of reality, and start becoming a nostalgia trip, or even a plain lie? Does Union, like Berlin, risk losing its soul the more successful it becomes? When I ask Arbeit, he narrows his eyes and chooses his words carefully. "The club will never stop changing," he says. "But hopefully it does so slowly enough that it can still recognise itself."

As with the techno scene, that means maintaining a balance between the tourists and the locals. Those for whom the stadium or the club is a bucket-list experience, and those for whom it is a way of life. At Berghain, they employ the world's most famous bouncer to filter out the voyeurs and maintain the social equilibrium inside.

Union may not have quite as strict a door policy, but Arbeit explains they also do not actively court new fans. Unlike other clubs from Europe's top leagues, he says, they have not sought to widen their fanbase in the Far East or the USA. "If we focus our energies on things like that, then we will lose our core purpose."

Whether for Union or for the club scene, that restraint is also an exercise in self-preservation. The more visible you are in Berlin, the more likely you are to be overrun by tourists and thrill-seekers. Ideally, you want to be cool enough to thrive, but well-hidden enough to survive.

"It's a bit like Sleeping Beauty," says Arbeit. "To get to her, the prince first has to know where she is, and then he has to cut his way through the thickets. With us, people know where we are, but you still have to walk through the forest before you can kiss us awake."

Scheisse! We're Going Up! by Kit Holden is published by Duckworth Books (£14.99). To support the Guardian and Observer order your copy at guardianbookshop.com for £13.04. Delivery charges may apply



◀ Union Berlin's spokesman, Christian Arbeit, hopes the club changes slowly so that it still can recognise itself

ULLSTEIN BILD/GETTY IMAGES

The talk

News and views from around the game

Wolves

Bruno Lage has not ruled out handing Diego Costa (⬮) his Wolves debut against Manchester City today. The 33-year-old former Chelsea striker has not played since January. "Let's see if he can be available or not," Lage said.



'I am concerned that we don't have Smith Rowe available'

Mikel Arteta

Mikel Arteta has admitted he harbours worries about the fitness of Emile Smith Rowe, whose campaign has yet to take off after a string of injury niggles.

Smith Rowe has been restricted to four substitute appearances and appeared to suffer a setback when warming down after the most recent, in the defeat at Manchester United this month. His pre-season was disrupted by a groin injury and there have been suggestions surgery may be the best route to address the problem.

"I am concerned that we don't have him available and when he's been trying to train he's not been feeling 100% fit or pain free," Arteta said. "This is the main concern and we have to find a solution to that. We're trying to do that."

The attacking midfielder scored 10 Premier League goals in 2021-22 and forced his way into the England squad but his prospects of a World Cup call-up appear remote. "Very frustrating," Arteta said. "He's a kid that loves playing football. It's the biggest thing in his life. And when he's not capable of doing that, especially after the run of games and performances that he had with us the year before, it's just difficult. But injuries are part of football that you're going to get at some stage of your career. It's how you face those difficult moments and now you make the next step."

Arteta was less forthcoming about the condition of Oleksandr Zinchenko. The Ukrainian Association of Football announced yesterday that he would be out for about two weeks with a calf injury, missing the internationals against Scotland and Armenia, but his club manager was tight-lipped when asked to confirm he would be ruled out of tomorrow's trip to Brentford.

"We have to wait until Saturday to make that decision," he said. "Where he was at that moment and what we have decided to do for international week doesn't mean that we will decide the same for the weekend."

Ben White was the subject of similar confusion after reports suggested his omission from the England squad owed to injury but Arteta said the defender, who has played at right-back this season, was fully fit. That is understood to be the Football Association's stance too. "I think Ben is giving a lot of reasons to be selected," Arteta said.

Thomas Partey is back in training after missing the past three games through injury and could return at Brentford. **Nick Ames**

'We just want to see Calvert-Lewin in the best condition'

Frank Lampard

Frank Lampard insists he is putting no pressure on Dominic Calvert-Lewin as the striker prepares to return to action.

Calvert-Lewin has not featured for Everton this season after sustaining a knee problem on the eve of the opening game against Chelsea having missed large chunks of last season with injury. However, the 25-year-old could make his long-awaited return from injury in tomorrow's home game against West Ham. He has been training for the last two weeks and will be in the squad.

Everton have scored just four goals in six matches and have been crying out for a presence up front despite signing Neal Maupay from Brighton late in the transfer window. So Calvert-Lewin's return has been highly anticipated by fans for a long time.

"He knows he has support and advice from me and I try not to give him that pressure on top of that. I just try to talk football with him," said Lampard. "I know what Dominic can give us because he gave it to us at the back end of last season and he is experienced enough to deal with it."

"All we want is Dominic fit and firing but it is difficult with injuries as it can easily happen when you get one and then another one comes. He's had that period and I just hope to see him playing regular football."

"He is not under any undue pressure from myself and the staff. We just want to see him in the best condition, so he can help us. Let's all work in the right direction to get him fit and release some of that pressure by hopefully the team being strong with or without Dominic." **PA Media**



▲ Dominic Calvert-Lewin has been back in training for two weeks



DAVID S. BUSTAMANTE/SOCRATES/GETTY IMAGES

'I'm more than happy with what Grealish is doing'

Pep Guardiola

Record signing taken off in victory over Dortmund

Pep Guardiola has defended Jack Grealish over his underwhelming Manchester City form, stating that Kevin De Bruyne and Ilkay Gündogan were among those who left the forward isolated during Wednesday's Champions League win over Borussia Dortmund.

Guardiola replaced Grealish on 58 minutes, along with Gündogan and Riyad Mahrez, shortly after Jude Bellingham had scored the opener at the Etihad Stadium. City improved, as goals from John Stones and Erling Haaland turned the match around.

Grealish is yet to score or make an assist this season, having registered only six goals and four assists in 38 appearances in all competitions in his first City campaign. Guardiola was asked about their record signing this season. "He started really well but had to stop for a problem in the ankle," the manager said. "Last game in the final third he was the only one up front who makes aggressive runs one against one, but to make assists he didn't have his mates in the box so we left him isolated."

"When he goes against the full-back, only Erling was there. Gündo[gan] was not there, Kevin

was not there and they should be. In the first half especially with the ball we didn't make any movements to help the players who had the ball and give him more possibilities to make it easier. I'm more than happy and delighted with what he's doing. Now it's just a question of time to get back a little bit his momentum he had at the beginning of the season."

Guardiola dismissed Grealish's statistics. "We didn't sign for the incredible goals or assists at Aston Villa [his former club]. It was another reason and when he played he did it. I want [him] to make goals and assists and he does too. But it's not about that, it's about his contribution without the ball and what he can produce for the other ones."

Guardiola is not concerned if Grealish is criticised from outside the club. "Always I say to them: 'You know exactly how you played, what we were looking for - what



Erling Haaland has scored 13 goals in nine games for City

▲ Jack Grealish and Pep Guardiola
SOCRATES IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

was the plan of the game, if it works or didn't work," he said. "So you don't have to listen to what people say, whether you played good or bad. You know, and every one of us knows if you did your best on this specific day."

Meanwhile, Guardiola has backed Haaland to continue improving at City. The forward has 13 goals in just nine appearances since his £51m summer move and was yesterday named the Premier League's player of the month.

"He's an exceptional striker, I've said it many times," said Guardiola. "But at the age he is, and I think he has ambition, he wants to be better and I think he will be better."

"He's a perfect person to manage. He's a nice guy and this is the most important thing. The quality he has he had before he came here and he has continued to do what he has done. We didn't add many things."

Kyle Walker faces a fitness test for today's game at Wolves. The game kicks-off at 12.30pm but Guardiola is not worried about the quick turnaround from the Dortmund game. "All the teams play at 12.30 sometimes. We are not an exception."

"They [Wolves] have a lot of good things in terms of central defenders making a good process and when they attack they have incredible runners." **Jamie Jackson**

Manchester United
Erik ten Hag will not take a break during the gap in Manchester United’s schedule despite having no game until 2 October. “We have many meetings,” said Ten Hag. “We have to improve the structures in and around the club.”

“There is time for Callum to make the World Cup squad”
Eddie Howe

Eddie Howe believes there is still time for Callum Wilson to earn a place in England’s squad for the World Cup in November. A thigh injury has dictated that the Newcastle centre-forward has not been named in Gareth Southgate’s squad for the Nations League games against Italy and Germany, when he was widely expected to receive a recall. Instead England’s manager has called up Brentford’s former Newcastle striker Ivan Toney in what appears a key audition for the role of Harry Kane’s principal understudy.

Howe, though, believes Wilson could yet add to his four senior caps in Qatar. “I feel for Callum because he’s not in the England squad,” said Newcastle’s manager, who, conscious of the 30-year-old’s tendency to pick up injuries, signed Alexander Isak for £59m from Real Sociedad last month. “But it will just fuel his motivation, it will fire him even more, so when Callum returns to our team he will show how good he is.”

Although close to full fitness, Wilson is expected to miss today’s match with Howe’s former club Bournemouth at St James’ Park but should return after the international break.

“There’s time for Callum to make the World Cup squad,” said Howe. “And I know Gareth feels the same. What does he have to do? He has to return and score and be consistent in his availability. Maybe he has to have a bit of luck somewhere else to make that plane.”

Before signing Isak, Howe - who believes the Sweden striker could play alongside Wilson - explored the possibility of recruiting Toney. After making only two senior appearances for Newcastle, Toney was allowed to leave in 2018 during Rafael Benítez’s managerial tenure but has rebuilt his career at first Peterborough and now Brentford.

Part of Howe’s brief is to try to help prevent any future Toneys slipping through the Tyneside net. “I’d love to think that wouldn’t happen now,” he said. “That’s not a criticism of anyone here at that time; why Ivan left, I don’t know. But when you watch him play now and see his attributes and what he can bring to his team, he’s an outstanding player.

“His England call-up is a great thing for people that drop into the lower leagues. It gives them hope that it’s not the end of their dreams. Ivan’s had to work his way back up and he’s done incredibly well.” **Louise Taylor**

Belgium
Roberto Martinez has named the teenager Zeno Debast (🇧🇪) in his 30-man Belgium squad for this month’s Nations League matches against Wales and the Netherlands. The 18-year-old Anderlecht central defender is the only newcomer.

‘I know Ivan dreamt about an England call since he was a kid’
Thomas Frank

Thomas Frank has praised Gareth Southgate for allowing him to break the news to Ivan Toney that he had made the England squad. Toney earned his maiden England call-up on Thursday and the 26-year-old is now eyeing the chance to push for a spot at November’s World Cup.

Toney became Brentford’s first England pick in 83 years, leaving the west London club in buoyant mood before tomorrow’s visit of Arsenal.

“I’m very, very pleased, but I don’t think I can beat the happiness of Ivan,” said Frank. “But there’s a nice little touch to the story, I would say, and that’s that Gareth Southgate just showed how great a man he is. He texted me earlier in the morning and said ‘Thomas, you can deliver the news to Ivan’. It’s not often that we as head coaches or managers can bring the good news. It’s not often Ivan is speechless, but he was laughing and just very happy.

“He’s a very confident guy and the journey has not been straightforward for him. I know he dreamt about being an England international since he was a kid. The path to the first call-up took a few detours, so that’s incredible.”

Toney came through Northampton’s set-up before making the move to Newcastle. But after six loan stints in three years he moved on. The striker shone at Peterborough before stepping up to Brentford, helping them rise to the Premier League.

Toney has scored five goals this season and Frank has backed him to make the trip to Qatar. “It’s up to Gareth Southgate, of course, but if I were putting together a squad I would pick him,” said the Brentford manager. **PA Media**



▲ *Thomas Frank told Ivan Toney he had been called up by Gareth Southgate*
ANDREW FOSKER/SHUTTERSTOCK



‘We will be respectful and want our fans to do the same’
Ange Postecoglou

Ange Postecoglou has called on Celtic supporters to respect a minute’s applause in memory of the Queen before tomorrow’s game against St Mirren.

The Paisley club has confirmed the tribute, which comes days after Celtic became the subject of Uefa disciplinary proceedings after supporters displayed an anti-monarchy banner during Wednesday’s Champions League draw against Shakhtar Donetsk.

When asked if he had a message for supporters before tomorrow’s planned tribute, Postecoglou said: “I have the same message to our fans that we always have. As I said before the game [against Shakhtar], we will abide by the protocols. That is why we wore black armbands on Wednesday night.

“I think there’s a minute’s applause and we will abide by whatever obligations and responsibilities we have as a football club. We will do that in a respectful manner. We want our supporters to do the same. Like I said, we will do whatever is required”

One banner among Celtic supporters in Warsaw declared ‘Fuck the Crown’ while another read ‘Sorry for your loss Michael Fagan’, a reference to the intruder who broke into the Queen’s Buckingham Palace bedroom in 1982. Supporters also expressed anti-monarchy sentiments in song. There had been no minute’s silence before the game but both sets of teams wore black armbands.

Speaking at his pre-match media conference yesterday, Stephen Robinson, the St Mirren manager, said: “We will be showing our utmost respects. We just hope everybody is respectful.” **PA Media**

Fixtures and tables

(all fixtures today 3pm unless stated)

PREMIER LEAGUE	(*not including last night's matches)									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Arsenal	6	5	0	1	14	7	+7	15		
Manchester City	6	4	2	0	20	6	+14	14		
Tottenham	6	4	2	0	12	5	+7	14		
Brighton	6	4	1	1	11	5	+6	13		
Manchester Utd	6	4	0	2	8	8	0	12		
Chelsea	6	3	1	2	8	9	-1	10		
Liverpool	6	2	3	1	15	6	+9	9		
Brentford	6	2	3	1	15	9	+6	9		
Leeds	6	2	2	2	10	10	0	8		
Fulham*	6	2	2	2	9	9	0	8		
Newcastle	6	1	4	1	7	6	+1	7		
Southampton*	6	2	1	3	7	10	-3	7		
Bournemouth	6	2	1	3	5	18	-13	7		
Wolves	6	1	3	2	3	4	-1	6		
Crystal Palace	6	1	3	2	7	9	-2	6		
Everton	6	0	4	2	4	6	-2	4		
Aston Villa*	6	1	1	4	5	10	-5	4		
West Ham	6	1	1	4	3	8	-5	4		
Nottingham Forest*	6	1	1	4	4	14	-10	4		
Leicester	6	0	1	5	8	16	-8	1		

Wolves v Manchester City (12.30pm) *BT Sport 1*;
Newcastle v Bournemouth; Tottenham v Leicester (5.30pm)
Sky Sports Premier League; Brentford v Arsenal (tomorrow, noon) *Sky Sports Premier League*; Everton v West Ham (tomorrow, 2.15pm) *Sky Sports Premier League*

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Sheff Utd	9	6	2	1	17	5	+12	20		
Norwich	9	6	1	2	15	8	+7	19		
Blackburn	9	5	0	4	11	11	0	15		
Reading	9	5	0	4	9	14	-5	15		
Burnley	9	3	5	1	15	9	+6	14		
Sunderland	9	4	2	3	14	9	+5	14		
Bristol City	9	4	2	3	18	14	+4	14		
QPR	9	4	2	3	14	11	+3	14		
Rotherham	8	3	4	1	12	6	+6	13		
Watford	9	3	4	2	9	9	0	13		
Wigan	8	3	4	1	9	10	-1	13		
Preston	9	2	6	1	3	2	+1	12		
Stoke	9	3	2	4	11	11	0	11		
Birmingham	9	3	2	4	8	10	-2	11		
Cardiff	9	3	2	4	7	10	-3	11		
Blackpool	9	3	2	4	9	13	-4	11		
Hull	9	3	2	4	11	18	-7	11		
Luton	9	2	4	3	9	10	-1	10		
Millwall	9	3	1	5	9	13	-4	10		
West Brom	9	1	6	2	14	13	+1	9		
Middlesbrough	9	2	3	4	13	15	-2	9		
Swansea	9	2	3	4	7	12	-5	9		
Huddersfield	8	1	1	6	8	13	-5	4		
Coventry	6	0	2	4	7	13	-6	2		

Birmingham v Coventry; Burnley v Bristol City;
Huddersfield v Cardiff; Luton v Blackburn; Middlesbrough v Rotherham (7.45pm) *Sky Sports Football*; Millwall v Blackpool; Norwich v West Brom; Preston v Sheffield Utd;
QPR v Stoke; Swansea v Hull (12.30pm) *Sky Sports Football*;
Watford v Sunderland; Wigan v Reading

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Ipswich	8	6	2	0	16	4	+12	20		
Portsmouth	8	6	2	0	17	6	+11	20		
Plymouth	8	6	0	2	14	9	+5	18		
Sheff Wed	8	5	1	2	15	7	+8	16		
Bolton	8	4	2	2	10	6	+4	14		
Cambridge Utd	8	4	1	3	12	12	0	13		
Peterborough	8	4	0	4	14	9	+5	12		
Shrewsbury	8	3	3	2	8	8	0	12		
Exeter	8	3	2	3	12	8	+4	11		
Wycombe	8	3	2	3	11	10	+1	11		
Barnsley	8	3	2	3	10	9	+1	11		
Fleetwood Town	8	2	5	1	8	7	+1	11		
Derby	8	3	2	3	7	8	-1	11		
Charlton	8	2	4	2	12	10	+2	10		
Oxford Utd	8	3	1	4	7	8	-1	10		
Lincoln City	8	2	4	2	8	11	-3	10		
Port Vale	8	2	3	3	8	11	-3	9		
Bristol Rovers	8	2	2	4	10	13	-3	8		
Cheltenham	8	2	2	4	8	11	-3	8		
Forest Green	8	2	2	4	7	16	-9	8		
Accrington Stanley	8	1	4	3	9	12	-3	7		
Milton Keynes Dons	8	2	1	5	7	10	-3	7		
Morecambe	8	0	4	4	4	15	-11	4		
Burton Albion	8	0	1	7	8	22	-14	1		

Accrington Stanley v Cheltenham; Bolton v Peterborough;
Bristol Rovers v Lincoln City; Cambridge Utd v Barnsley;
Derby v Wycombe; Exeter v Burton Albion; Fleetwood Town v Charlton; Forest Green v Morecambe; Oxford Utd v MK Dons; Port Vale v Shrewsbury; Portsmouth v Plymouth;
Sheffield Wednesday v Ipswich

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Leyton Orient	8	7	1	0	15	4	+11	22		
Stevenage	8	6	1	1	11	6	+5	19		
Barrow	8	6	0	2	13	9	+4	18		
Salford City	8	5	2	1	13	6	+7	17		
Northampton	8	5	2	1	16	10	+6	17		
Bradford	8	4	2	2	11	7	+4	14		
Doncaster	8	4	2	2	10	10	0	14		
Mansfield	8	4	1	3	12	9	+3	13		
Grimsby	7	3	3	1	7	5	+2	12		
Crewe	8	3	3	2	10	9	+1	12		
Swindon	8	2	5	1	9	8	+1	11		
Sutton Utd	8	3	2	3	9	9	0	11		
Carlisle	7	2	4	1	8	7	+1	10		
Walsall	8	2	3	3	10	8	+2	9		
AFC Wimbledon	8	2	2	4	8	11	-3	8		
Tranmere	8	2	1	5	8	9	-1	7		
Newport County	8	2	1	5	9	11	-2	7		
Stockport County	8	2	1	5	10	13	-3	7		
Harrogate Town	8	2	1	5	6	11	-5	7		
Crawley Town	8	1	3	4	8	12	-4	6		
Colchester	8	1	3	4	7	12	-5	6		
Gillingham	8	1	3	4	2	9	-7	6		
Hartlepool	8	0	4	4	6	15	-9	4		
Rochdale	8	0	2	6	5	13	-8	2		

Bradford v Stevenage; Carlisle v AFC Wimbledon;
Colchester v Grimsby; Crewe v Crawley Town; Doncaster v Swindon; Gillingham v Mansfield; Leyton Orient v Walsall;
Newport County v Barrow; Northampton v Rochdale;
Salford City v Tranmere; Stockport County v Harrogate;
Sutton Utd v Hartlepool

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chesterfield	8	6	2	0	17	8	+9	20
Wrexham	8	6	1	1	23	8	+15	19
Notts County	8	5	3	0	20	6	+14	18
Solihull Moors	8	5	2	1	22	9	+13	17
Boreham Wood	8	5	2	1	13	6	+7	17
Wealdstone	8	4	3	1	9	6	+3	15
York	8	4	2	2	9	6	+3	14
Woking	8	4	1	3	13	9	+4	13
Barnet	8	4	1	3	13	11	+2	13
Bromley	8	4	1	3	9	10	-1	13
Eastleigh	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11
Maidstone Utd	8	3	2	3	11	17	-6	11
Dorking Wanderers	8	3	1	4	12	20	-8	10
Southend	8	2	2	4	8	9	-1	8
FC Halifax	8	2	2	4	6	9	-3	8
Oldham	8	2	2	4	7	12	-5	8
Dag & Red	8	2	2	4	9	16	-7	8
Yeovil	8	1	4	3	7	9	-2	7
Maidenhead Utd	8	2	1	5	6	11	-5	7
Torquay	8	2	1	5	5	11	-6	7
Gateshead	8	1	3	4	11	14	-3	6
Aldershot	8	2	0	6	8	15	-7	6
Altrincham	8	0	5	3	8	15	-7	5
Scunthorpe	8	1	1	6	9	17	-8	4

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Striking problem of the elephant on the bench at Tottenham

How Antonio Conte is trying to keep Kulusevski and Son up to speed since making Richarlison signing a priority

David Hytner

Antonio Conte is not the arm-around-the-shoulder type when it comes to the hard business of omitting players from his starting XI because, frankly, where does it end? “I don’t like to give explanations to my players,” the Tottenham manager said before today’s visit of Leicester. “Otherwise in every game I have to speak to one, to another one and another one.”

But Conte made an exception this week after leaving out Dejan Kulusevski for the third straight match - the 2-0 Champions League defeat at Sporting on Tuesday night.

“To drop Deki for three games in a row, honestly for me, it was difficult,” Conte said. “For sure, the first problem is for him because when I go home and I start to think [about omitting him] ... I spoke with Deki because after three times that you go on the bench he deserved to feel that my trust, my confidence, was like always.”

Kulusevski had started the season well, having starred over the second half of the previous campaign after his January arrival from Juventus. The fans love his energy and power, his direct running and how he makes things happen. And so does Conte. But things are different after the £50m summer signing of Richarlison, a deal that speaks volumes about

Conte’s influence at the club; how he has encouraged them to think bigger.

With Kulusevski, Harry Kane and Son Heung-min on the books, it was easy to believe that Spurs did not absolutely need another top player for their front three, especially one so expensive. Conte, though, made Richarlison a priority - to give him options in a season where Champions League football is back on the menu; to fire competition in the squad.

“It has to be a habit for Tottenham - to think with ambition,” Conte said. “If we did not have ambition, I would continue to have a young player on the bench. But when there is an important injury, you have to play with a young player and then you lose and the fault is the manager’s. This is the truth.”

Richarlison has looked dangerous since coming into the lineup for Kulusevski; he scored both goals in the 2-0 Champions League win over Marseille last week. Kulusevski, in Conte’s words, “deserves to play”. And Kane is Kane. And so we get to Son and the situation that increasingly feels like the elephant in the room at Spurs.

Son has started every game so far but the player who shared last season’s Premier League Golden Boot with Mohamed Salah of Liverpool has yet to score. His dribbling statistics have fallen off a cliff. In the league last season he attempted 103 and completed 51. This time he has attempted 12 and completed one. Son has been on the periphery of matches. The famous smile is not so visible.

Conte was asked whether Son’s drop-off was down to being more of a target for opponents after his Golden Boot or a loss of confidence. “Half and half,” Conte replied.



From top: Harry Kane, Dejan Kulusevski, Richarlison, Son Heung-min and manager Antonio Conte

“When you finish the last season as top scorer, a lot of light is shone on you. The following season is more difficult because you are not an underdog. But when you don’t score, the confidence goes a bit down.”

Conte made it clear that Son’s lack of smiles was low on his list of worries. “Honestly, if I have to pay attention to one smile or not during the game ...” he said. “Sonny, for sure, is not happy because he’s not scoring. It’s normal and I like that he’s a bit angry for this situation because it means he wants to change it.”

“It can happen, especially when you play massive games. You can be a bit tired mentally, also [in] your body. But Sonny will never, never be a problem for me. I hope to have all my problems like him.”

Conte intends to make changes against Leicester after the mental and physical drain of Sporting and it felt instructive that he brought up the possibility of leaving out Son. “It can happen that in some games he can’t play from the start - like Harry, also,” he said. “But only to protect him, to give him the possibility to rest and take care of his energy.”

Had Son scored at Sporting or, indeed, previously this season, it might have been easier for Conte to give him a breather. Now, if he does so, he risks inflaming the situation around the player’s goal drought.

“We need energy against Leicester,” Conte said. “We finished against Sporting with not a lot of energy and for this reason I am a bit upset. We lost a lot of energy and then we lost the game [to two late goals]. I will make rotation on Saturday. We will see [with Son].”

Sporting represented Spurs’ first defeat of the season, although it continued an unwanted trend from last season - losses on their travels in Europe. The club lost in each of their Conference League away ties apart from at Rennes when they drew a little fortuitously.

It is one obvious area for improvement but Conte is emboldened by his deeper resources - even if they bring him a headache. “It’s a good problem to have,” he said and Son should probably not expect a soothing chat about where he finds himself. “A strong player copes with this situation, faces this situation and overcomes this situation,” Conte said, which sounded a lot more like him.

Football In brief

Bournemouth

Talks on £150m sale to NHL team owner Foley

Bournemouth’s owner, Maxim Demin, is in talks with a consortium led by Bill Foley, the owner of ice hockey’s Vegas Golden Knights, over a potential sale for about £150m. If successful, it would mean that more than half the Premier League clubs have minority or majority US shareholders. A group led by Foley, who is also chairman of the insurance company Fidelity National Financial and the investment company Cannae Holdings, is understood to have begun exclusive negotiations with

Demin last week over a potential deal for the club, who were promoted from the Championship in May. Demin, who is Russia-born but a British citizen, has been the sole shareholder at Bournemouth since 2019 when he repurchased a 25% stake he had sold to the company Peak6 Investments. He is believed to be open to selling after appointing the US-based firm Montminy & Co to identify potential buyers or investors. Foley, 77, is based in Las Vegas and owns 70% of the city’s first major league franchise after helping to bring the Golden Knights into existence in 2017. He is understood to be confident of completing a deal. **Ed Aarons**

World Cup

Fifa rejects Chile’s latest bid to replace Ecuador

Ecuador look set to hold on to their place at the World Cup in Qatar after Fifa’s appeals committee dismissed a claim of ineligibility against one of their players. The Chilean federation lodged a complaint with the game’s global governing body over Byron Castillo, who it claimed was not born in Ecuador, and argued his team should forfeit the World Cup qualifying matches he had played in. Fifa’s disciplinary committee closed the proceedings in June but Chile appealed, leading to a new hearing before

the appeals committee. However, that too has now been dismissed. “Among other considerations, [the committee] deemed that on the basis of the documents presented, the player was to be considered as holding permanent Ecuadorian nationality,” read a Fifa statement. The Chilean federation said it would take its case to the court of arbitration for sport once it has the full written reasons for the appeals committee’s decision. Ecuador are due to feature in the opening match of the tournament against the hosts on 20 November. Chile alleged Castillo was born in Colombia and claimed to have documents proving he was never eligible to play for Ecuador. **PA Media**



Bill Foley is said to be confident of completion

▼Eddie Butler moved seamlessly from playing to journalism
BILLY STICKLAND/INPHO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Worcester win late reprieve to play Exeter tomorrow

Gerard Meagher

Worcester Warriors have been granted a stay of execution by the Rugby Football Union to host tomorrow's first home match of the season against Exeter but the club remains mired in financial crisis with staff lashing out at the owners over "broken promises".

The RFU had set Worcester a deadline of midday yesterday to provide guarantees over safety and medical provisions or face suspension from the Premiership. The union confirmed that they have been provided and the match can go ahead, thanks to the efforts of the club's staff who are still waiting on unpaid wages. Today's match between Worcester's women's side and Harlequins has also been given the green light.

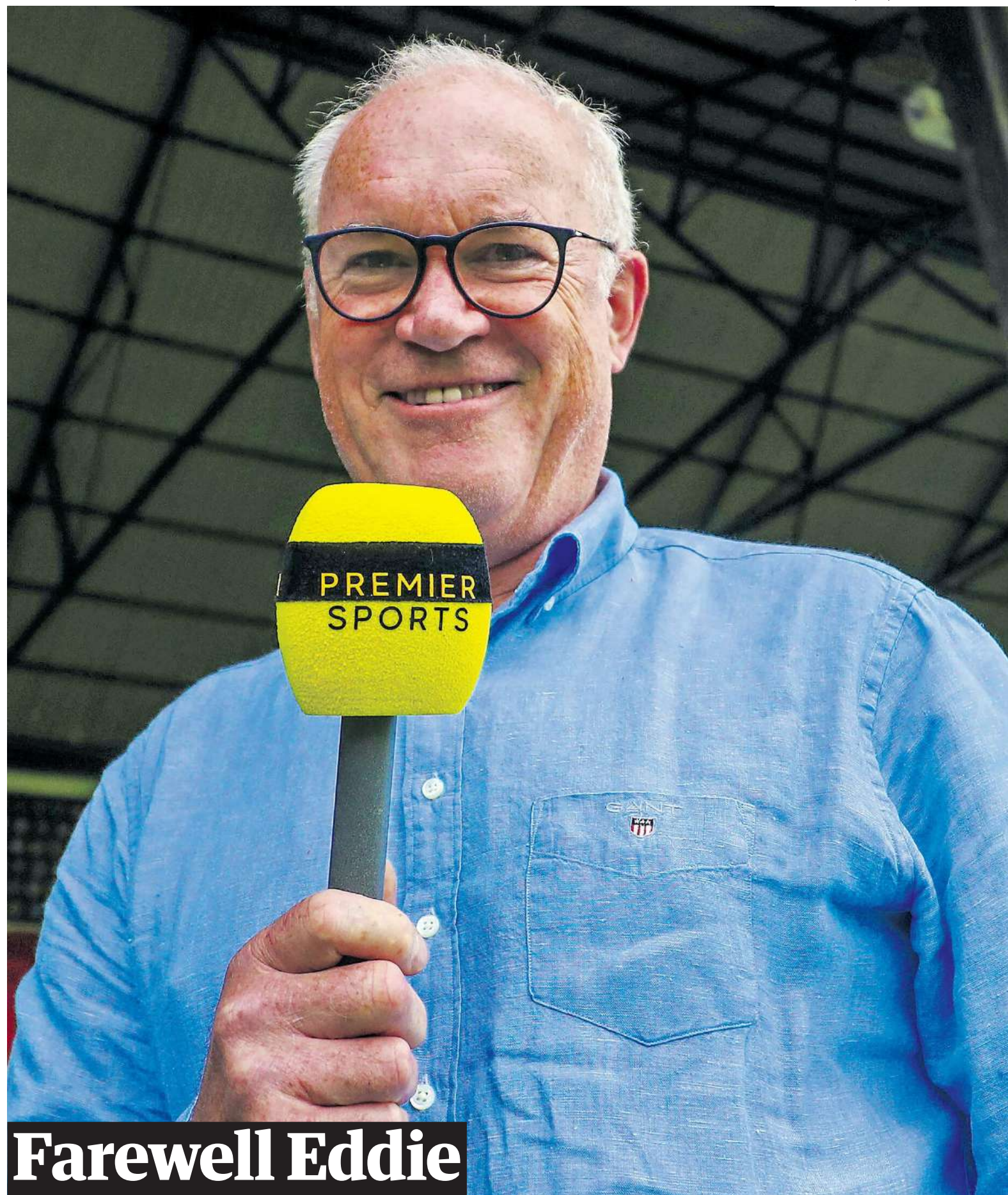
Worcester have been allowed to operate a reduced capacity of 4,999 spectators - all situated in the East stand - for tomorrow's match due to a limited number of stewards, who are volunteering, and medical provisions. There will be no hospitality and limited food and drink services. There is no sign, however, of the sale of the club reaching completion, despite an insistence earlier this week from the owners that the deal was almost done, provoking the ire of the club's staff and raising questions over how long the club can continue to operate beyond the weekend.

Staff held a meeting yesterday where it was ultimately determined that rather than down tools due to unpaid wages - some have received 65% of August's salary, others nothing at all - they would effectively volunteer to ensure the game could go ahead. The RFU has said it will continue to work with the club over "funding and potential new ownership proposals" but the outlook beyond the weekend still looks bleak without fresh investment. Having stepped in to salvage the weekend's matches, the club's staff rounded on the co-owners, Jason Whittingham and Colin Goldring, in a damning statement.

"We remain angry at the continual broken promises and lack of communication from those above and hope for new ownership to come in with a clean break from those currently in position. Our focus is now on getting the stadium ready for the supporters, who along with players and staff are the beating heart of this great club."

'We remain angry at the broken promises and lack of communication'

Worcester staff statement



Farewell Eddie - the timeless and mellifluous voice of all our rugby winters

Our former colleague Eddie Butler, who has died aged 65, enjoyed a multidimensional life and, after his playing career, was an admired voice across rugby

Robert Kitson



Greetings, Roberto." Even when Eddie Butler was just saying hello every word flowed more smoothly when he spoke - or wrote - them. And whether he was chatting with his colleagues in the press box, or delivering those impossibly brilliant, mellifluous television voiceovers, you wanted to hear more. Which, of course, is exactly how we all feel right now.

It is scant consolation that the bard of Monmouthshire packed so much into his 65 years. Rugby player, storyteller, commentator,

▼ Eddie Butler (centre) after scoring for Wales against France in 1984
COLORSPORT/SHUTTERSTOCK



novelist, linguist ... there was almost nothing he could not do when he put his mind to it. Not many have ever captained their country at rugby union, been a British & Irish Lion *and* then become a renowned broadcaster, rugby correspondent and fiction writer as well. Simply to bask in the reflected glow of his multiple talents was enough for the rest of us.

He was invariably modest with it, though, and unfailingly generous even to those of us who had not played for Pontypool in an era when men were men and visiting sides finished a distant second. Those “Pooler” sides were formidably hard-nosed and “Educated Edward” or “Bamber” as they called him (he had studied at Cambridge University) was not selected by accident.

If and when his eyes started to glitter, maybe after a couple of drinks or if someone was in danger of taking excessive liberties, the old steely edge could momentarily re-emerge.

It was all part and parcel of a multidimensional life. He grew up between the Usk and the Wye rivers but one grandfather was a steelworker in Scunthorpe and his father was a research manager at the nylon factory in Pontypool. Sometimes he and other “Pooler” players would train on Sunday mornings on the old tramways above Blaenavon and “change with the canaries in their cages” in the shower rooms of Big Pit, which was then still a working mine.

Playing for Pontypool also taught him plenty, not least an appreciation of what unflinching forward play looked and felt like. If there was a soundtrack to those Pontypool Park years it was generally the tinkling noise of metal stud on bone. “We did lose rather a lot of games,” Eddie used to say. “Not on the scoreboard necessarily. We were just struck off other clubs’ fixture lists.”

With us Guardian/Observer hacks, though, he was consistently good-humoured company. If something amused him, a familiar melodic “hmmm” – almost like a cat purring – would audibly emerge. And once his imagination had been engaged, his sense of adventure was never far behind. “Come on, Roberto, where next?”

Once, en route to an Observer cricket match in Sussex, he persuaded our then colleague Norman Harris it would be much more fun to boycott the A-roads leading helpfully down to the

coast. We navigated straight across the lot on a gloriously absurd scenic tour of southern England, laughing more loudly by the mile.

When sharing the same rugby pages as Eddie there was also nil chance of his piece cutting across anyone else’s. He was never one to follow the herd, nor to state the bleeding obvious. Assuming, that is, he had actually made the game. Once, heading over to watch Bath v London Scottish at the Recreation Ground, he fell asleep and awoke only as his train was pulling out of Bath Spa station. No problem, he thought, he would hop off at Chippenham or Swindon and nip back swiftly enough. Unfortunately the next stop was Reading. He walked into the Rec just as the final whistle was sounding.

Then there was the infamous Observer column he ghosted for Austin Healey on the eve of the crucial final Test on the 2001 Lions

He packed a lot into his 65 years – rugby player, storyteller, commentator, novelist, linguist ...

tour to Australia. When he sought to finalise the column with his new friend Austin, unfortunately the England man was in hospital having a scan. “Write whatever you want,” Eddie was told. The next thing Healey knew he was being hauled over the coals by a livid Graham Henry, wanting to know why he had called the Wallaby lock Justin Harrison “a plank” and “a plod”. No one could ever accuse Eddie of lacking an impressively broad vocabulary.

As many have recalled, some of his televised *bons mots* were equally memorable. “Oh, England, what have you done?” he famously intoned as the home side unravelled at Twickenham in 2008. “And Wales, what are you doing?”

Personally, though, I used to prefer teasing him about his archery commentary at the 2012 London Olympics. “And there’s another good one from the South Korean ...”

It is heartbreaking to think Eddie has now left us and we all send our love to Susan and the family. No more evocative voiceovers. No more “Greetings, Roberto”, either. But if you really listen hard, you can still hear it. The timeless voice of all our rugby winters.

‘I had rugby taken away so I know it is a privilege to play’

Constant pain led Sam Jeffries to miss two years – but now he’s back with Bristol and an England hopeful

Gerard Meagher

It was not until Sam Jeffries had returned home from England’s triumphant tour of Australia in July that he allowed himself a moment to reflect on his journey towards international recognition. On his two-year “retirement”, on all those nights in the gym or in rehab, gradually finding a way to restart a career without the chronic knee pain that had ended it abruptly aged 26 in 2019.

Jeffries’ story is one of perseverance, dedication and no little faith from Bristol, something he is acutely aware of as he discusses his road to recovery – a feelgood tale within a domestic rugby scene that could currently do with one. He is generous with his time – it is not until after the interview he reveals he needs to go and have stitches for a cut on his chin – and at the Bristol Bears’ high-performance centre, employees are united in their praise for Jeffries’ character.

They know him well because when he had to admit that his patella tendonitis was too much to bear, Pat Lam, the director of rugby, appointed him as Bristol’s professional development manager, such was the esteem in which he was held. It was a cathartic time because there he was, helping players transition to life after rugby, all the while living through the same experience. The hope that he would one day play again – however unlikely – never left him. But going from making his Premiership return last October to being whisked off to Australia to replace the injured Charlie Ewels was beyond anyone’s expectations.

“Knowing what I had experienced with that opportunity and thinking about how things had been 12 months ago to where they are now, I wouldn’t have guessed it would work out like that,” says Jeffries. “I was proud of how things had turned around, a lot of work has gone into it.”

Jeffries was a latecomer to professional rugby, having completed his studies at Bristol University, but after playing a starring role in the Bears’ promotion-winning 2017-18 season, he was destined for big things. What should then have been a breakthrough year in the Premiership, however, was blighted by endless pain, with Jeffries managing only 27 minutes all season. “I was in constant pain,”

the back-row adds. “It’s incredibly challenging as a player because we live in constant pain anyway because of the physical demands of our sport. There are times when you know you can push through it but I was at a stage where it was too much.

“At that point I knew that something needed to change and thankfully the club were on the same wavelength. It was the right decision at the right time. It turned out to be the best thing for me because I’ve come back fitter and stronger. In some ways I think I’m very fortunate to have what all professional rugby players dream of – two years off to sort all your niggles out.”

It becomes clear that such a positive outlook played a pivotal role in Jeffries’ recovery and what strikes most as he details his comeback is that he was not prepared to give up the athlete’s lifestyle. Retirement did not lead to R&R or indulgence. He repeatedly talks of “strategies” to ensure his knees could cope with the demands of being a modern rugby player with a pragmatism that belies the gruelling months of trial and error, fitted around his office job, until he was pain free.

“I always kept the goal to come back but I had been in pain for nearly 12 months, barely being able

This weekend

Today (3pm unless stated)
Northampton v London Irish (2pm)
Bath v Sale; Harlequins v Saracens;
Leicester v Newcastle; Wasps v Bristol
Tomorrow Worcester v Exeter



Sam Jeffries played 17 Premiership matches for Bristol last season

to run. I was thinking my rugby career was over at that point. So it was a really energising, fresh start to go into an administrative role here. With the shock of no longer being a player, it was good for me to have the experience so I could understand what other players go through themselves.

“The whole time through that process I was determined to at least sort out my rehab and my gym work, because if I was going to get back into rugby I wanted to give it a full crack. I worked pretty hard, while I was working during the day in the office, in the evenings I’d be doing my gym, my rehab and my running – they were long days but it paid off. Then through Covid we had a lot more time at home and it was a case of sticking to a daily regime – 30 minutes every night. Doing that consistently for a period of months fixed my problems.”

Jeffries’ research also led him to Juan Smith – the World Cup-winning Springboks flanker – who had endured similar problems with his achilles and took an extended break before coming back to excel with Toulon. Jeffries’ comeback was incremental, however, first training with 18-year-olds fresh out of school – the same youngsters he was educating about the importance of pursuits outside rugby – then an A-League game at the end of the 2020-21 season.

Slowly but surely, and when Covid protocols allowed, he made his way back into first-team training and earned a contract for the start of last season. There were setbacks along the way and Jeffries questioned himself when he ruptured a ligament in his foot. “I thought: ‘Here we go again, maybe rugby isn’t supposed to be for me.’” But after a couple of Championship appearances for Hartpury at the start of last season he proceeded to play 17 Premiership matches for Bristol.

“Everything post-injury was a bonus,” he says. “I thought my career was over so I came in with a positive mindset. I was still a little bit nervous because you still want to contribute, but after a few games I had the confidence that I could.”

The pain still has to be managed – “When you have spikes in loading they tend to flare up and this summer, coming back into pre-season, on hard ground after a few weeks when your running demands go up” – but at 29 he believes his best years are still ahead of him. After a first taste of the England setup, initially for the Barbarians match in June and then the Australia tour, he is evidently hungry for more and it helps that Eddie Jones takes a shine to players who have demonstrated resilience.

Before that, however, is today’s trip to Wasps as Bristol seek a second win of the season, and more importantly a determination to enjoy every moment along the way. “You can always live in the negatives of being a rugby player and all the things that bog you down,” says Jeffries. “But I had it taken away so I know what a privilege it is. To get 20-odd Premiership games [last season] and be where I am now, it’s gone better than I ever hoped it would.”

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Luiz Suárez's switch to Atlético M helped them to the league title as teams lifted trophies



Conway's century the wait for patient Zealand
Simon Burton



Sport

/// We're not the good guys: Osaka shows up problems of press conferences *Jonathan Liew*

Young athletes are expected to answer the most intimate questions in a cynical and often predatory environment



French Open / Osaka withdraws amid row over press conferences

French Open / Osaka withdraws amid row over press conferences

Football / Southgate to break news to unlucky England seven

/// Robinson and Overton can make their Ashes case
Ebony Rainford-Brent



The Guardian

Sport
Cricket**Looking
forward
after years
of regret**

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Rugby union

Quins baffled after Smith is blocked from facing Saracens

Gerard Meagher

Harlequins are frustrated at being unable to select Marcus Smith for today's match against Saracens, who have been cleared to pick five England internationals including Owen Farrell, Maro Itoje and Billy Vunipola.

All England players who toured Australia over the summer are mandated to take 10 weeks off as part of player welfare protocols, meaning they should have missed the first two weeks of the season. Clubs can apply for special dispensation, however. Saracens seem to have been successful in gaining permission for Farrell, Itoje, Jamie George and both Vunipola brothers to play at The Stoop.

Harlequins had their request for Smith to return a week early rejected and hinted at their annoyance in the press release announcing their team. "Unfortunately Marcus Smith was not given clearance to play this week and will continue his mandated rest period following England's summer internationals," it read. It is understood that in response, Harlequins were referred to the regulations.

Each application is lodged with the professional performance management group, which is made up of representatives from the Rugby Football Union, Premiership Rugby and the Rugby Players' Association. Eddie Jones is believed to also have a say.

Each case is handled individually and players who had little-to-no game time in Australia are more likely to be allowed to return early. On that basis Quins have selected Joe Marchant and Jack Walker in their squad while players who missed large chunks of last season through injury, such as Farrell or Jack Nowell, who appeared for Exeter last weekend, are also more likely to be approved.

There appear to be inconsistencies in the decision to block Smith today but allow Billy Vunipola to feature, however, given the No 8 played more for club and country last season.

The inconsistent approach has been criticised by the player welfare lobby group Progressive Rugby and is causing confusion in a season when, as revealed by the Guardian in May, England players will miss about half their club's Premiership matches if the rest protocols are fully adhered to.



Marcus Smith is not allowed to play because of welfare protocols



Alex Hales in Karachi, where England are preparing for their T20 series against Pakistan
ALEX DAVIDSON/
GETTY IMAGES

Hales determined to make the most of England recall

Continued from page 1

who did what I did. I just have to hold my hands up," he says. "You have to look at yourself in the mirror and try to learn from your mistakes."

Ten weeks after Hales made that lonely drive home he watched his old team win the World Cup final at Lord's. "It was one of the weirdest moments of my life. I felt all the joy of England winning the World Cup and then you are like: 'I should have been there,'" he says.

"It was extremely painful. As a cricketer it's your worst nightmare to be involved in a World Cup squad, miss out on the eve of it and then watch your team win it. Obviously it was brilliant to see the team lifting the cup but at the same time it eats at you inside that you should have been part of it and

you weren't." Hales says that the experience drove him "to improve as a person and a cricketer" so that he could get back in the team, where he felt he deserved to be. What he did not realise at the time was just how long that would take.

"Three years is a very, very long time, especially in an athlete's career," he says. "At times I felt like I wouldn't get this chance again."

It was especially frustrating because Hales knew he was in the form of his career. He gave up first-class cricket in 2017, and the one-day game in 2019, meaning he now plays only T20 around the world.

"Having all my concentration on one format has made me a lot better." But, he adds, "when you've got a squad that's settled and a captain that is happy with where everything is, that's just the price you have to pay."

It was only when Rob Key took over as managing director of England men's cricket and Buttler became England's white-ball captain that things really changed. Hales says he has always had good relationships with both men. When they left him out of England's squad for this tour, and the T20 World Cup that follows it, he decided to ring Key and ask why.

"It's not a comfortable thing to do to ring up someone and demand to know why you're not playing, I had to sort of psych myself up to do

'Missing out on the World Cup was extremely painful; it's your worst nightmare'

it a little bit," Hales says. But since he was already out of the squad, he reckoned he had nothing to lose by making the call.

"I felt like I deserved my spot in that squad if it was picked purely on cricketing merit. So I felt like I had the right to ask why I wasn't picked. I wanted to know where I stood. I wanted to know if there was a genuine chance of me playing or whether they were just saying it to the media."

Hales got so worked up that he sent Key a message a couple of hours later apologising for getting carried away. Key told him not to worry. The call paid off when Bairstow sustained an injury and England, all of a sudden, needed another opener.

Hales, who was in Cape Town with his girlfriend at the start of a four-week holiday, had suddenly to change his plans. "To get this chance again is something I'm really proud of," he says, "and something I'm really looking forward to, because I feel like I can help push this team forward."

He has been waiting for this opportunity. No doubt he has a point to prove now it is here.

Formula One

Ferrari and Red Bull scornful of FIA

Giles Richards

Senior figures in motor racing have expressed a widespread sense of fatigue and dissatisfaction among Formula One teams with the sport's governing body, the FIA. What is seen as an increasingly fraught rela-

tionship between the teams and the FIA was exacerbated further at last weekend's Italian Grand Prix, while the organisation's president Mohammed Ben Sulayem has been criticised for a failure of leadership.

F1 is enjoying a huge surge in popularity at present but many within the sport are concerned that the FIA, which enforces its regulations, is proving to be more of a hindrance than help to this growth.

At Monza last weekend, with a swathe of grid penalties applied across the field, the governing body was only able to provide a grid for Sunday's race three and a half hours after qualifying had concluded, a period inexplicable to fans. The FIA claimed the hold-up was due to F1

not releasing timing data, which was vigorously refuted by F1.

The race itself ended behind the safety car, which generated disapproval from Red Bull and Ferrari, while Haas's Guenther Steiner bluntly stated: "It wasn't handled how it should've been." However, the



▲ Mohammed bin Sulayem's leadership has come in for criticism

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff pointedly noted that the FIA had followed their regulations correctly.

Ben Sulayem took over as president in December last year and his leadership has come under criticism ever since. There was disappointment when the FIA failed to ban Russian drivers from competing after the invasion of Ukraine. The report into the controversial end to the Abu Dhabi GP last year was felt by many to be unsatisfactory and it is claimed Ben Sulayem has opposed the increase in the number of sprint races as a way of extracting more money from F1, an accusation he has denied. "We are running the sport in a collaborative way, as we have always done," an FIA spokesperson said.

Golf

Player ban hurts Ryder Cup, says DeChambeau

Rohith Nair

Team events such as the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup are only “hurting themselves” by banning players who signed up for LIV Golf, the 2020 US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau has said.

Players who joined the Saudi-backed LIV series are no longer eligible to participate in PGA Tour events, including the Presidents Cup and all other tours sanctioned by the circuit. DeChambeau has played for the United States in the past in the Ryder Cup and the Presidents Cup but he will be watching next week's Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow Club on television instead.

“I personally think that the team events are only hurting themselves by not allowing us to play, not allowing us to qualify through some capacity, in some facet,” DeChambeau said before this week's LIV event in Chicago.

“I would say, from a team aspect,



Bryson DeChambeau has yet to win one of the four LIV Golf events

it is sad that those governing bodies have not allowed us to be able to qualify. That's all I can say to that. I want to play in numerous events on the PGA Tour. It would be awesome. That's what LIV Golf has tried to – they have allowed us to play on the PGA Tour. It's the PGA Tour barring us from doing so.”

The lucrative LIV series, which counts 12 major winners among its players, offers \$25m purses in no-cut 54-hole tournaments. But critics say LIV Golf, which is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, amounts to “sportswashing” by a nation trying to improve its reputation in the face of criticism over its human rights record.

DeChambeau, 29 and who has won eight times on the PGA Tour, is one of the complainants in the anti-trust lawsuit against the PGA Tour and, though he would not comment on the lawsuit, he said he had “no buyer's remorse” over making the switch to LIV Golf. “This is the biggest decision besides choosing my agent that I've ever made in my entire life and I couldn't be more happy to be over here,” he said.

“What LIV Golf has provided is something new and unique, different ... there's going to be some disruption and people aren't going to like it. And I respect every single person that doesn't think it's good for the game of golf.” **Reuters**

Cycling

Hayter looking to celebrate at road worlds

Ethan Hayter hopes to celebrate his birthday this weekend with victory at the UCI Road World Championships in Wollongong, Australia.

World track champion Hayter, who won the omnium title last October, turns 24 tomorrow when he is looking for at least a podium finish in the time trial.

He said: “It's a big opportunity to come here and race. I really want to medal at the weekend, or even win, so we'll see how that goes. But if I don't it's not the end of the world either.”

Hayter leads a Great Britain team of 26 riders and will contest both the men's time trial and road race, which takes place the following Sunday.

The Ineos Grenadiers rider, who has had an impressive season on the road, will celebrate his birthday with parents Tim and Nicky. “I've got nothing planned but my parents are coming out, so maybe there's a surprise waiting,” he said.

Hayter won the Tour of Poland last month and had podium finishes at the Critérium du Dauphiné.

His Grand Tour debut at the Vuelta a España was cut short after he tested positive for Covid-19, but Hayter said he is in great shape to contest with the favourites in Wollongong.

“I think the main challengers are the same as last year really,” he said. “The Alaphilippes and Van Aerts, Tadej Pogacar's been looking quite good, so throw a few Brits in there and we'll see what happens.”

Fred Wright has joined Hayter in the elite men's team, alongside Ineos teammates Ben Turner, Ben Swift, Ben Tulett and Luke Rowe, plus Jake Stewart and Connor Swift.

Olympic mountain bike champion Tom Pidcock, who won a maiden Tour de France stage in 2022, has opted not to make the trip.

Hayter said: “Tom was going to be the main leader here and it's a real shame he's not made it, but he's got to do what's best for him.”

Wright also has high hopes in Wollongong after three podium finishes on Grand Tour stages this year.

Hayter added: “Fred knows he deserves to be in there. He was top five for about half the Vuelta stages. He'll win some races soon.”

Pfeiffer Georgi and Anna Henderson head up the women's team and are joined by Anna Shackley, Lizzie Holden, Elynor Backstedt and British road race champion Alice Towers, who will make her Great Britain debut. **PA Media**

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The Guardian Masterclasses



Evans stays cool as Britain feel heat

Dan Evans survived the pressure of Britain needing to beat the Netherlands
IAN MACNICOL/
GETTY FOR LTA

Evans hails 'down to earth' Federer after edging Britain ahead

Briton says Swiss will be sorely missed after beating Griekspoor in straight sets

Tumaini Carayol
Emirates Arena

Dan Evans has spoken of his admiration for Roger Federer in light of his imminent retirement after the British player gave his team a lifeline in the Davis Cup.

Evans frequently trained with Federer from their base in Dubai as the Swiss recovered from knee surgery. He complimented Federer as a "normal, down-to-earth person" despite his lofty status.

"Him and his team are great to me," said Evans from the Davis Cup in Glasgow. "We practised a bunch of times. Obviously two-and-a-half weeks once in Dubai every day. It was great. Roger was cool."

"The biggest compliment I can give him is he was a very down-to-earth person. He treated me, and he treats everybody exactly like the normal bloke on the street to their mate."

Evans continued: "He'll be sorely missed. It will be different for the older guys to not have him around. It's unfortunate for the younger generation to not see how he operated."

Under the towering pressure of a must-win tie in the group stage of the Davis Cup Finals in Glasgow, Evans edged the Great Britain team a step closer to qualification by establishing a 1-0 lead against the Netherlands. Evans defeated Tallon Griekspoor 6-4, 6-4 with a high-class, accomplished performance.

After narrowly losing to the United States, Great Britain returned for their second match with work to do. The Dutch already had a win on the board after defeating Kazakhstan, and the United States also beat Kazakhstan to clinch their second win. The top two nations from the group advance to the knockout stages, meaning a defeat by the Netherlands would knock Great Britain out.

Despite Great Britain's opening loss, what was clear from the three tight, top-quality matches was that all of the British players were competing at a high level. Evans simply continued on the same path, serving well

and attacking with his forehand without hesitation despite the extremely slow courts.

Griekspoor, 26, broke into the top 100 in November after dominating on the ATP Challenger tour in 2021. He has since established himself in the top 50, where he currently sits at No 48. While Griekspoor is a talented player with a big serve, potent forehand and comfort in the forecourt, Evans has a far greater understanding of his own strengths and weaknesses.

Both players held serve well and covered the net capably in the early stages but after eight games Evans' greater discipline showed. His decision making was good throughout, sneaking into the net at the right moments while arresting Griekspoor's rhythm with his variety while making few errors.

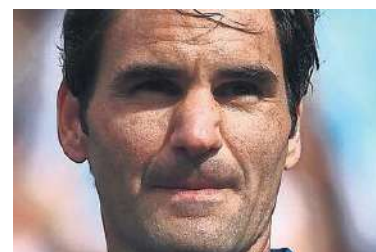
An example of his consistency came during the decisive break at 4-4. After Evans received a slice of fortune, a fortunate net cord that dribbled over for a winner at 30-30 on Griekspoor's serve, he played a solid point to break. Evans absorbed an excellent second serve and a couple of big forehands before the Dutchman gave away the break.

In the second set Evans maintained his level, attacking in the few tight moments on his serve, while taking the few chances he received on Griekspoor's serve. He slipped a backhand down the line to break serve for 4-3 before marching to victory.

"We're incredibly lucky to get such good home support. It was an amazing match and I'm just pumped to get through for the team," said Evans.



▲ Dan Evans celebrates after giving Britain a 1-0 lead against the Netherlands
STEVE WALSH/PA



▲ Roger Federer will retire after the Laver Cup in London next week

Djokovic pays tribute to 'integrity' of Swiss great

Eleanor Crooks

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to Roger Federer's "integrity and poise" following the announcement of his impending retirement. Federer revealed on Thursday that he will call time on his professional career at the age of 41 after next week's Laver Cup in London.

Djokovic will also be part of Team Europe at the O2 in London, with the big four of the Serb, Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray reuniting for one last time.

Federer and Djokovic faced each other 50 times between 2006 and 2020, including in five grand-slam finals, and the latter wrote on Instagram: "Roger it's hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together. Over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on. Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise."

"It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many more years to come. I know that this new chapter will hold amazing things for you, Mirka, the kids, all your loved ones, and Roger fans still have a lot to look forward to."

"From our family to yours, we wish you much joy, health, and prosperity in the future. Looking forward to celebrating your achievements and seeing you in London."

Serena Williams welcomed Federer to the "retirement club", with the two greats bringing their careers to a close within a couple of weeks of each other.

Williams, who bade farewell in emotional scenes at the US Open, wrote on Instagram that she was among the "millions and millions" of people Federer had inspired throughout his 24-year career.

She said: "I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest - perfectly done, just like your career."

"I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people - including me - and we will never forget."

"I applaud you and look forward to all that you do in the future. Welcome to the retirement club. And thank you for being you." **PA Media**

'I just want to punish him hard. That's the only thing'

The big interview

Saúl 'Canelo' Álvarez

Mexican, who defends all four of his belts in Las Vegas tonight, says he will 'leave everything in the ring' in latest face-off with fierce rival Golovkin

Donald McRae
Las Vegas



On Thursday afternoon Saúl 'Canelo' Álvarez sighed and rose to his feet as he prepared for his latest face-off with Gennady Golovkin at their final press conference in Las Vegas. Two more long days and nights would need to pass before their bitter rivalry reaches its culmination in a third fight. Álvarez, who said earlier in the week that he was sick of the stare-downs that accompany professional boxing, had also had enough of the same old questions.

He crossed the stage with studied disdain and reached the spot where Golovkin was waiting

for him. These are two of the greatest fighters of the century and this trilogy has festered for years. Golovkin, and most boxing pundits and fans, believed he won their first bout in September 2017 - only for it be judged, controversially, as a draw. The rematch, exactly a year later, ended in a narrow points victory for Canelo. They were both memorable contests but Golovkin turned 40 this year and Álvarez is eight years younger than him.

Yet, all week, Golovkin has cut an impressively composed figure who looks primed to dredge up one last special performance full of his enduring excellence. Álvarez has shown much more emotion and raw enmity towards Golovkin. Suddenly, as their eyes locked together in a way which suggested they could see deep into each other's buried selves, Canelo's right hand closed into a fist. It seemed an almost involuntary gesture but it was striking too.

Nothing changed in his expression but, as the face-off intensified, it was hard to look away from the tension in that tightly shuttered fist. In contrast, Golovkin's left hand hung loose and free. I thought again of the words Álvarez had uttered the previous afternoon: "I just want to punish him really hard. That's the only

thing happening in my mind. I'm very close to doing it now."

The Mexican, who defends all four of his belts as the undisputed world super-middleweight champion, paused before ripping into Golovkin again. "He pretends to be a nice person and he's not. He talks a lot of shit about me, and that's why I don't like him. He's a good fighter, he's a great fighter, that's for sure. But, as a person, I don't think so."

Such animosity is tangled up with Álvarez's respect for Golovkin's outstanding technical ability and implacable will. Canelo had grown used to opponents buckling in the face of his intimidating aura. And against those who had been brave or skilled enough to push him hard, he stayed patient in the certainty that he would eventually overwhelm them.

However, Golovkin is no ordinary fighter. The current IBF world middleweight champion believes he beat Álvarez twice and that conviction has steered him as he climbs up in weight to face his rival again. Álvarez is moving back down from light-heavyweight where four months ago he lost clearly to Dmitry Bivol, a naturally much bigger world champion from Kyrgyzstan. Bivol's mother is from Kazakhstan, Golovkin's home

country, and both men are similar in the impassive and methodical threat they offer.

But Canelo's tetchiness is fuelled more by the knowledge that a second successive defeat would be a personal catastrophe. Bivol's size was a crucial factor in only the second loss of Álvarez's career which stretches across 17 years and 61 fights. Losing to a middle-aged Golovkin would be devastating.

Álvarez nodded when I asked if it had taken him weeks to get over the pain of the Bivol fight - his only previous defeat, to Floyd Mayweather Jr, had been

in 2013 when he was so much less experienced. "Yes, of course. Nobody wants to lose, nobody likes to lose. So I felt a lot of pain after Bivol, because I love what I do and I don't want to lose. But you need to keep moving forward and keep fighting."

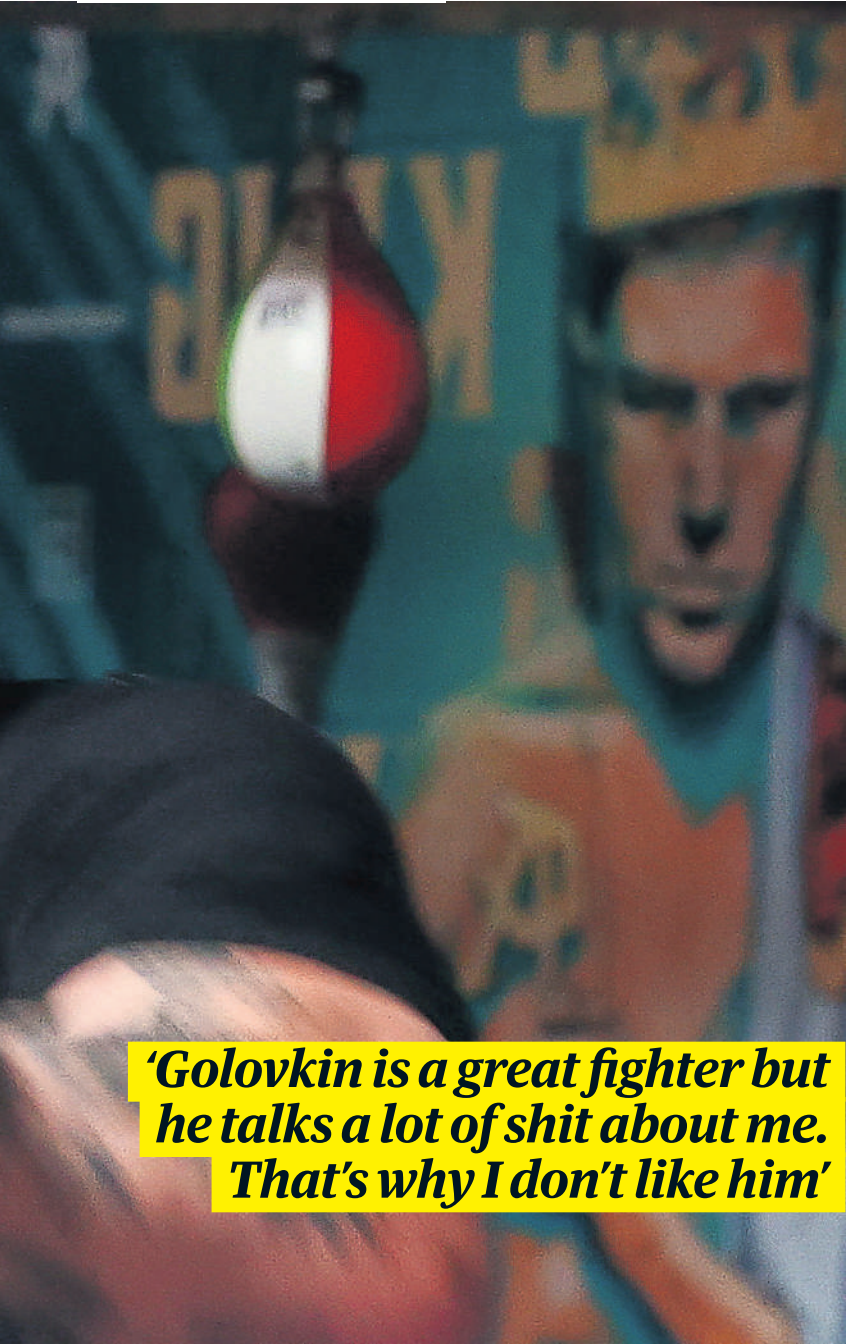
Had it made him more intense? "Yes," Canelo said softly, giving me the stare, before he echoed himself. "Yes. I feel more hungry and more dangerous now. I don't need to show people anything, but I need to show myself. I'm very happy to get back in the ring."

His initial preference had been



▲ Canelo Álvarez after defeating Gennady Golovkin in Las Vegas in 2018
ISAAC BREKKEN/AP

▼ *Saúl ‘Canelo’ Álvarez in training in San Diego last month for tonight’s world super-middleweight fight*
MELINA PIZANO/MATCHROOM



‘Golovkin is a great fighter but he talks a lot of shit about me. That’s why I don’t like him’

to fight Bivol again. “I really wanted that rematch, but Eddie Hearn [his promoter] says we have that contract to fight Golovkin in September. So that’s why we are here. And I’m happy. It’s a rare moment to have this trilogy. “It’s one of the biggest fights in my life, because of our rivalry. Out of our three fights this one will be the most important. The fact he’s going into the fight thinking it might be his last makes him even more dangerous. But it’s the same for myself. I’m going to leave everything in the ring.” Golovkin poured scorn on the suggestion that he is heading for retirement. Álvarez, meanwhile, is intent on knocking out Golovkin. “I go into every fight with that objective but this one has become personal. From the first round I’ll be looking for that stoppage.” Golovkin, who rarely loses control of his emotions, smiled at the suggestion that Álvarez has allowed their third fight to become so deeply personal. He might struggle to withstand the ferocity coming his way at the T-Mobile Arena - the same arena for their first two bouts - but Golovkin believes Álvarez’s aggression will give him the openings he needs. But for Álvarez, who is so acutely conscious of his place in boxing history, victory is essential. “This

third fight is very important for me, for my country, for my legacy. I need to win very convincingly.” Until he lost to Bivol, Álvarez was widely considered the No 1 pound-for-pound fighter in the world. He has since slipped down that list in the opinion of many - a fact which also makes him bristle. “I still think I’m the best fighter in the world because nobody does what I do in boxing. Nobody takes the risk like me. I don’t need to take risks [because he makes so much money]. But I love taking on a challenge and that’s why I feel I am still the best.” I have come to know Álvarez a little better during numerous interviews over the past 18 months. The more he opens up, the easier he is to like. He has a real wit and, away from the ring, a gentleness

Tale of the tape

Álvarez		Golovkin
32	Age	40
5ft 9in	Height	5ft 10in
19st 10lb	Weight	11st 4lb
Orthodox	Stance	Orthodox
61	Fights	44
57/39	Wins/KO	42/37

which is seen most obviously in wry and tender interactions with his daughters. But he is deadly serious between those knotted ropes and, as a way to engender the hostility he needs after boxing professionally since he was 15, Álvarez stokes his own fire. In May 2021, against Billy Joe Saunders, he watched the mouthy Englishman swagger around fight week and listened quietly to his trash-talking. He did not want Saunders to be taken from the arena in an ambulance with a shattered orbital bone. But he did not show much sympathy afterwards for Saunders - who has not boxed again since that savage night. A year ago, when becoming the first undisputed world champion in the super-middleweight division, Álvarez enjoyed dishing out a clinical yet brutal victory over Caleb Plant - the previously unbeaten American who had also tried to get under his skin. Plant performed creditably but the referee rescued him in the 11th round. He will return to the ring next month. A beating from Canelo is not easily overcome. Bivol was different. He remained polite and distant and refused to engage in any pre-fight acrimony. His fists traded in a far more dangerous language and told their own hurtful story. Golovkin is cut from the same stoical cloth but he can’t resist the odd spiky barb. His suggestion that Álvarez had “avoided this fight for four years” induced a less measured response from the fiery, pale-skinned and red-headed Canelo: “He’s an asshole.” When asked if he needed such trash-talk to rouse him anew in this dirty old business, Canelo nodded. “I kind of like it. I train harder and go into a fight feeling more dangerous.” My own informal view is that Álvarez will bludgeon his way to victory in a gruelling battle. They are both great fighters, heading down the wrong side of the hill, but eight years is a telling difference. Golovkin might roll back time and find the sweetest vengeance in the final scene of this acrid trilogy, but the bunched and twitching fists of Álvarez hold the compelling key. If he can control the emotion coursing through him he will surely have too much force and verve for the older champion. Could Álvarez and Golovkin strike up a friendship once their careers are over - in the way that Érik Morales and Marco Antonio Barerra, those two little Mexican warriors, did after their searing trilogy of fights? “Maybe,” Canelo said with a shrug, as if it was up to Golovkin. “I am OK with that.” Those benign and peaceful days are still a long way away. Álvarez slipped back into a dark and baleful mood soon afterwards. He cancelled his remaining media engagements for the day and went in search of some fleeting peace. Enough prattling and posturing had been done. His fists were bunched and ready for an intensely personal conversation with Golovkin. It was time for some necessary silence before they finally settle their many differences in the ring.



Jesse Rodríguez is the undercard’s prime attraction

‘It’s crazy to be here, this is a huge fight for me’

Jesse ‘Bam’ Rodríguez’s story is already exhilarating, and it could yet end with him being 2022’s Fighter of the Year
Donald McRae
Las Vegas

‘It’s crazy to be here,” Jesse “Bam” Rodríguez says as his eyes open wide and he looks around the gaudy old fight city of Las Vegas where, tonight, he promises to breathe fresh hope into a dark and jaded business for the third time this year. Boxing is scarred by corruption and danger but, sometimes, it offers up an exhilarating story. Rodríguez is a little whirlwind who is only five foot four inches tall and, until recently, weighed just 108 pounds before he changed his life forever. He is now on course to become world boxing’s Fighter of the Year. “For me, it’s just amazing and it’s come so fast,” Rodríguez says, his 22-year-old face lit by a stunned smile. “I always knew this day would come but I just didn’t expect it to happen this way.” Eight months ago he was scheduled to fight on the undercard to a riveting headline battle for the vacant WBC world super-flyweight title between the legendary Thai fighter Sriksaket Sor Rungvisai and another seasoned former world champion in Carlos Cuadras. Rodríguez had grown up watching both men and he was excited to be fighting on the same bill. Six days before the bout, however, Rungvisai pulled out with an injury and Rodríguez was asked if he would be willing to step in as a replacement. He had been preparing for a fight at light-

‘For Canelo to go out of his way to congratulate me for beating Cuadras was so special’

flyweight, two divisions below the 115lb category where Cuadras, a 44-bout veteran, was waiting. “When they told me about it, I got so excited because fighting for a world title was something I’ve always dreamed of. I couldn’t pass up that opportunity. I also felt like I was always born to be on that platform so, of course, I went in confident. I already knew how it was going to turn out. But, yeah, in the first round it was crazy, because I was thinking: ‘I’m actually in the ring with Carlos Cuadras. I used to watch all his fights on HBO, up against Chocolatito [the great Román González] and all those other champions. So to actually be in the ring with him was mind-blowing, and to perform the way I did against him just made the win that much better.” Rodríguez had only had 14 previous professional fights but he boxed like an old master as, using deft angles and footwork, he set up Cuadras for a shuddering right uppercut which knocked the Mexican down in the third round. Cuadras was shocked but he staggered up and saw out the fight, which Rodríguez dominated to win easily on points. Apart from becoming the youngest current world champion boxer he also made another small slice of history. Rodríguez is the first world champion to have been born in the 21st century. Four months later, in June, Rodríguez made his first title defence. In an act of striking audacity he agreed to fight Rungvisai, the multiple former world champion who had won 50 of his 56 fights during a long, 13-year career. Rodríguez lived up to his “Bam” nickname as a blurring explosion of punches ended the fight in the eighth round, when Rungvisai had to be rescued by the referee. “I saw a lot of talk on social media that it was too early for me, that he hit too hard and he was going to knock me out,” Rodríguez says. “So for me to stop him shocked a lot of people and it made the win that much sweeter.” Tonight Rodríguez leads the undercard to boxing’s biggest fight of the year between Saúl “Canelo” Álvarez and Gennady Golovkin. “I’ve only met Canelo once and it was back in March at a fight. I was sitting in the front row and Canelo came over and moved everyone out of the way to say congratulations on my victory over Cuadras. He’s the face of boxing and for him to notice what I did and to go out of his way to offer congratulations was so special.” For the first time this year Rodríguez will step into the ring as the favourite when he defends his world title against Israel Gonzalez. If he wins in dominant style again, many boxing insiders believe he could seal his place as 2022’s Fighter of the Year. “This is a huge fight for me,” Rodríguez says. This is the perfect platform to go out there and show not just the hardcore boxing people but the casual fans what I can do. I’m one of those fighters you see very rarely, a once-in-a-generation world champion, and people are going to see that on Saturday night.”

Sport
Rugby league

Woolf leaving gives us extra motivation, says Saints' Roby

Super League champions, without two key players, play Salford in their quest for a fourth consecutive title

St Helens captain James Roby says the defending champions have been given extra motivation from the imminent departure of coach Kristian Woolf to make it an unprecedented four successive Grand Final victories.

This afternoon's playoff tie against Salford at the Totally Wicked Stadium, a repeat of the 2019 final which Saints won 23-6, will bring down the curtain on Woolf's time at the club if they fail to see off the surprise semi-finalists.

But Roby said the Saints players are determined to win through to Old Trafford to give their popular coach the chance of a fitting farewell.

"With the impact that Kristian has had with us and the success we've had, I think we owe it to him to do our utmost to send him out on a high," said Roby. "He's done an amazing job with us and it's sad to see him go but we understand why."

St Helens have dominated



'With Kristian's impact, we owe it to him to do our utmost to send him out on a high'

Super League all year, finishing four points clear of Wigan and 14 ahead of sixth-placed Salford.

But the champions have been dealt a major blow with the loss of England prop Alex Walmsley with a foot injury which has also ruled him out of the World Cup, while back-up front-rower Dan Norman is also out with a fractured cheekbone.

▼ **Kristian Woolf (left) and James Roby with the League Leaders' shield**
WILL MATTHEWS/PA

Walmsley has been the cornerstone of Saints' recent successes but Woolf is confident they can cope without him.

"As a team we have played a number of games without him

this year and a number of games without some of the best players in the competition," he said.

Woolf has been without scrum-half Lewis Dodd since April and has also been deprived of the services of winger Regan Grace and centre Mark Percival for much of the season.

However, Percival is poised to make his return from a four-month absence as he makes a push for inclusion in England's World Cup squad and Woolf can also welcome back second-rower Sione Mata'utia.

Salford are without stand-off Brodie Croft, Super League's player of the month for August, as they seek a first away win over St Helens for more than 42 years and their first of the summer era.

The Red Devils were beaten on their last 15 visits to the old Knowsley Road and have lost all 11 matches so far at the Totally Wicked Stadium.

Saints also beat their rivals at Widnes and Headingley in the summer era and have put together a run of 39 straight wins since their 18-17 defeat in January 1980.

"That sort of stat is not something we'll be discussing as a group," said coach Paul Rowley, who is 80 minutes away from steering his side to the Grand Final in his first season as a Super League head coach.

"It's 13 versus 13 on the day. We're just a chilled group of lads, best mates who are going to rock up and play a game of rugby. It gets no more complicated than that.

"We have respect for them and I'm sure they have respect for us."

PA Media

Results

Tennis

DAVIS CUP FINALS
Group A (Bologna)
Italy 2-0 **Argentina**: **M Berrettini** (It) bt **S Baez** (Arg) 6-2 6-3; **J Sinner** (It) bt **F Cerundolo** (Arg) 7-5 1-6 6-3
Group B (Valencia)
Spain 1-0 **Canada**: **R Bautista-Agut** (Sp) bt **V Pospisil** (Can) 3-6 6-3 6-3
Group C (Hamburg)
Germany 1-1 **Belgium**: **JL Struff** (Ger) bt **Z Bergs** (Bel) 6-4 7-6 (9); **D Goffin** (Bel) bt **O Otte** (Ger) 3-6 7-6 (7) 6-3
Group D (Glasgow)
Great Britain 1-0 **Netherlands**: **D Evans** (GB) bt **T Griekspoor** (Neth) 6-4 6-4
WTA CHENNAI OPEN (Pune)
Singles: **Quarter finals**: **N Podoroska** (Arg) bt **E Bouchard** (Can) 1-6 6-4 6-2; **L Fruhvirtova** (Cze) bt **V Gracheva** (Rus) 6-4 6-3
Doubles: **Semi-final**: **A Blinkova & N Dzalamidze** (Rus/Geo) bt **E Bouchard & Y Wickmayer** (Can/Bel) 6-3 1-1 ret
WTA ZAVAROVALNICA SAVA PORTOROZ (Slovenia)
Singles: **Quarter finals**: **A Bogdan** (Rom) bt **B Haddad Maia** (Br) 6-1 1-6 7-5; **E Rybakina** (Kaz) bt **L Tsurenko** (Ukr) walkover; **AL Friedsam** (Ger) bt **D Parry** (Fr) 1-6 7-6 (4) 6-3
Doubles: **Semi-finals**: **C Bucsa & T Mihalikova** (Sp/Slk) bt **A Fomina & I Gamarra Martins** (Rus/Br) 5-7 6-3 10-6
Golf
DP WORLD TOUR ITALIAN OPEN (Lazio)
Leading completed second round scores (GB/Ire unless stated) **133** R McIlroy 67 66. **134** M Fitzpatrick 65 69. **135** T Lewis 70 65. **136** V Perez (Fr) 70 66. **137** L Donald 69 68; **T Hutton** 72 65; **J Luiten** (Neth) 66 71; **S Rodriguez** (Sp) 71 66; **J Smith** 69 68; **L Herbert** (Fr) 70 67. **138** O Bekker (SA) 68 70; **S Jamieson** 67 71; **K Kitayama** (US) 71 67; **T Pullkanen** (Fin) 69 69; **A Quiros** (Sp) 67 71; **A Rozner** (Fr) 67 71; **M Schneider** (Ger) 70 68; **Wu A** (Chn) 70 68; **N Hojgaard** (Den) 68 70. **139** A Fitzpatrick 70 69; **V Hovland** (Nor) 71 68; **E Kofstad** (Nor) 72 67; **R MacIntyre** 70 69; **F Michetti** (It) 70 69; **M Southgate** 70 69. **140** L de Jager (SA) 69 71; **D Fichardt** (SA) 69 71; **E Pepperell** 67 73; **J Scrivener** (Aus) 70 70; **M Korhonen** (Fin) 73 67. **141** M Antcliff (Aus) 72 69; **J Campillo** (Sp) 70 71; **G Havret** (Fr) 72 69; **D Howell** 71 70; **M Lorenzo-Vera** (Fr) 71 70; **G Migliozi** (It) 70 71; **N Møller** (Den) 76 65; **R Karlberg** (Swe) 71 70; **F Celli** (It) 69 72; **F Molinari** (It) 73 68; **M Ford** 70 71.

LET LACOSTE OPEN DE FRANCE (Deauville)
Leading completed second round scores (GB/Ire unless stated) **131** I Laklalech (Mar) 65 66. **132** M MacLaren 65 67. **134** C Boutier (Fr) 67 67. **135** N Broch Estrup (Den) 68 67. **136** E Peronin (Fr) 68 68; **M Simmermacher** (Arg) 68 68; **S Soenderby** (Den) 67 69; **K Spilkova** (Cze) 67 69; **A Swayne** (Mar) 68 68. **137** A Meyssonier (Fr) 67 70. **138** L Harm (Ger) 67 71; **M Skarpnord** (Nor) 72 66. **139** C Wolf (Aut) 71 68; **P Babnik** (Slo) 68 71; **F Johnson** 68 71; **S de Bock** (Bel) 69 70. **140** H Davis 70 70; **C Gainer** 69 71; **M Haddioui** (Mar) 70 70; **T Malik** (Ind) 68 72; **U Wikstrom** (Fin) 70 70; **A Caudal** (Fr) 67 73; **H Burke** 71 69.
PGA TOUR FORTINET CHAMPIONSHIP (California)
Leading first round scores (US unless stated) **63** J Lower. **65** M Homa. **66** An B (Kor); **Kim S** (Kor); **JJ Spaun**. **67** R Fowler; **B Garnett**; **E Grillo** (Arg); **S Harrington**; **M Schmid** (Ger); **R Shelton**; **G Sigg**; **N Taylor** (Can); **S Theegala**; **S Kang** (Kor). **68** T Moore; **S Ryder**; **J Bramlett**; **M Kuchar**; **T Montgomery**; **K Streelman**; **B Stuard**; **A Svensson** (Can); **D Thompson**; **D Willett** (Eng). **69** T Alexander; **T Cone**; **T Detry** (Bel); **A Eckroat**; **B Hagy**; **T Hoge**; **S Jaeger** (Ger); **D Lipsky**; **B Martin**; **H Matsuyama** (Jpn); **A Nunez** (Arg); **A Schenk**; **S Stevens**; **C Stroud**; **B Taylor** (Eng). **70** C Pan (Tai); **J Augenstein**; **Z Blair**; **J Bridgeman**; **H Buckley**; **C Connors** (Can); **T Duncan**; **W Gordon**; **L Hodges**; **M Hubbard**; **M Hughes** (Can); **A Landry**; **V Norman** (Swe); **C Ramey**; **M Schwab** (Aut); **W Simpson**; **A Smalley**; **B Snedeker**; **J Walker**; **M Wallace** (Eng); **B Hossler**; **R Knox** (Sco); **G Woodland**. **71** A Albertson; **R Brehm**; **C Champ**; **N Echavarria** (Col); **H English**; **D Ghim**; **C Hadley**; **J Hahn**; **J Herman**; **K Hickok**; **H Higgs**; **M Laird** (Sco); **D McCarthy**; **T Merritt**; **T Pendrith** (Can); **A Smotherman**; **R Streb**; **M Thompson**; **B Todd**; **R Werenksi**.
LGPA TOUR AMAZINGCRE PORTLAND CLASSIC (Oregon)
Leading first round scores (US unless stated) **65** A Uehara (Jpn). **66** H Green (Aus). **67** N Korda; **A Furue** (Jpn); **H Shibuno** (Jpn); **C Inglis**. **68** B Henderson (Can); **J Shin** (Kor); **L Vu**; **T Chan** (Hkg); **A Sharp** (Can); **A van Dam** (Neth). **69** M Harigae; **A Yin**; **C Ciganda** (Sp); **J Coleman**; **S Kemp** (Aus); **A Ashok** (Ind); **N Choi** (Kor); **M Stark** (Swe); **R Rohanna**; **A Belac** (Slo); **D Darquea** (Ecu); **L Hartlage**; **W Zhang** (Chn). **70** S Ryu (Kor); **G Hall** (Eng); **R O'Toole**; **E Henseleit** (Ger); **A Olson**; **C Choi** (Kor); **M Lee** (Tai); **Park S** (Kor); **Choi H** (Kor); **P Phatlum** (Tha); **Yin R** (Chn); **I Gabsa** (Ger); **L Duncan**; **M Martin**; **V Hurst**. **71** Kim A (Kor); **M Alex**; **C Clanton**; **P Reto** (SA); **C Knight**; **Ani N** (Kor); **P Chien** (Tai); **D Finkelstein**; **H Harford**; **Lee M** (Kor); **S Vilaubi**; **J Peng** (Tai); **S Michaels**; **K Yoo**; **Yin X** (Chn); **Kim M** (Kor).
Cycling
TOUR DE LUXEMBOURG
Stage 4 (Remich-Remich, 26.1km ITT) **1** M Jensen (Den) Trek-Segafredo 34min 05sec; **2** K Vauquelin (Fra) Arkea-Samsic +3sec; **3** M Hulgard (Den) Uno-X Pro Cycling +13sec; **4** T Guernalec (Fr) Arkea-Samsic +15sec; **5** S Bax (Neth) Alpecin-Deceuninck +25sec; **6** K Geniets (Lux) Groupama-FDJ at same time; **7** J Osborne (Ger) Alpecin-Deceuninck +26sec; **8** R Herregodts (Bel) Sport Vlaanderen-Baloise +27sec; **9** J Gregaard (Den) Uno-X Pro

► **Matt Fitzpatrick in action at the Italian Open at the Marco Simone golf club near Rome**
FABRIZIO CORRADETTI/LIVEMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK



Cycling +37sec; **10** V Madouas (Fr) Groupama-FDJ +39sec.
Leading overall standings: **1** M Jensen (Den) 13hr 07min 27sec; **2** K Vauquelin (Fr) +3sec; **3** S Bax (Neth) +14sec; **4** V Madouas (Fr) +21sec; **5** K Geniets (Lux) +25sec; **6** J Osborne (Ger) +26sec; **7** R Herregodts (Bel) +27sec; **8** M Trentin (It) UAE Team Emirates +31sec; **9** J Gregaard (Den) +37sec; **10** B Thomas (Fr) Cofidis at 39secs
Rugby union
UNITED CHAMPIONSHIP
Benetton L Glasgow L
Darts
WORLD SERIES FINALS (Amsterdam)
First round: **R Joyce** (Eng) bt **D Baggish** (US) 6-5
American football
NFL
Kansas City 27 Los Angeles Chargers 24
Baseball
MLB
Arizona 4 San Diego 0; Houston 5 Oakland 2; New York Mets 7 Pittsburgh 1; Minnesota 3 Kansas City 2; St Louis 2 Cincinnati 3

Basketball
EUROBASKET (Berlin)
Semi-final: Poland 54 France 95
Fixtures
TODAY (3pm unless stated)
Rugby union
The Rugby Championship
Argentina v South Africa (8.10pm)
Gallagher Premiership
Bath v Sale; Harlequins v Saracens; Leicester v Newcastle; Northampton v London Irish (2pm); Wasps v Bristol
United Championship
Cardiff v Munster (3.05pm); Edinburgh v Dragons (7.35pm); Lions v Bulls (3.05pm); Scarlets v Ospreys (5.15pm); Ulster v Connacht (7.35pm); Zebre v Leinster (1pm)
RFU Championship
Amphill v Ealing; Bedford v London Scottish; Hartpury v Doncaster (2.30pm); Jersey v Coventry; Richmond v Caldy
Rugby league
Betfred Super League
Grand semi-final: St Helens v Salford (1pm)
Betfred League One
Play-off semi-final: North Wales v Rochdale (5.30pm)

Cricket
Royal London One-Day Cup
Final Kent v Lancashire, Trent Bridge (11am)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
Central Sparks v Sunrisers, New Road (10.30am); Lightning v South East Stars, Grace Road (10.30am); Northern Diamonds v Southern Vipers, Headingley (10.30am);
TOMORROW (3pm unless stated)
Rugby union
Gallagher Premiership
Worcester v Exeter (3pm)
RFU Championship
Nottingham v Cornish Pirates (3pm)
Rugby league
Betfred Women's Super League
Grand final York City v Leeds (3.30pm)
Shield final Warrington v Featherstone (12.30pm)
Betfred Championship
Playoff quarter-finals: Barrow v Batley; Halifax v York City
Betfred League One
Playoff semi-final: Swinton v Doncaster
Cricket
Third Women's One-Day International
England v India, Hove (11am)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy
Thunder v Western Storm, Old Trafford (10.30am)

Racing



▼ Sam Cooke (centre) beats Moktasaab (right) in the Dubai Duty Free Handicap at Newbury
STEVEN CARGILL/RACINGFOTOS.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

Khanjar comes up for Ayr but Tinto preferred

Greg Wood
Guide to TV races

Plenty of backers will look no further than William Haggas's lightly raced Khanjar, the favourite at around 9-2, in today's Ayr Gold Cup but he was beaten in a big field off a 6lb lower mark in July and has done all his winning on good-to-firm or firm ground.

As a result he looks at least a couple of points too short for what is always one of the season's most competitive sprint handicaps, and Fivethousandtoone, a recent winner in a strong time, and Motagally, fourth off a 4lb higher mark last year, both have each-way appeal at around 14-1.

From further down the list, however, Tinto (3.40) could offer even better value at around 25-1.

He was less than two lengths behind Commanche Falls, a stable companion at the Michael Dods yard, in the Stewards' Cup in July, is 6lb better off today, and the clincher is the booking of the highly

promising claimer Mark Winn, who has a 20% strike rate this year, to do the steering from a useful draw in stall two.

Ayr 1.20 At the age of eight Redarna has few secrets from the handicapper but he sprang a 66-1 surprise on his seasonal debut in April and would be a runner at around 10-1 here if he is in similar form after a six-week break.

Newbury 1.40 In running at York last time Dubai Future had no luck and

Greg Wood's tips

Newbury 1.10 Bussento 1.40 Dubai Future 2.15 Manaccan 2.50 Shoudvebeenaring 3.25 Warren Point 4.00 Bishops Crown 4.35 Bug Boy 5.10 Marshal Dan
Ayr 1.20 Redarna 1.55 Phantom Flight (nb) 2.30 Oso Rapido 3.05 Queen Me 3.40 Tinto (nap) 4.15 Monty Man 4.45 Judgment Call 5.20 Wor Willie
Newmarket 1.31 Fortis Regina 2.06 Tamarama 2.41 War In Heaven 3.16 Got No Dollars 3.51 Duke Of Verona 4.26 Value Theory 5.01 Maysong
Catterick 1.48 Solitary Trees 2.23 Pop World 2.58 Gullane One 3.33 Lumacho 4.08 Melburnian 4.40 Unashamed 5.15 Stoney Lane 5.50 Licit
Wolverhampton 4.50 Nibras Rainbow 5.25 Rose Of Ithaca 5.55 Eldeyaar 6.30 Elongate 7.00 Babe Alicious 7.30 Admirable Lad 8.00 Willing To Please 8.30 Brazen Diamond

he has an obvious chance here on his winning form at Royal Ascot in June. **Ayr 1.55** James Horton, a former assistant to Sir Michael Stoute, is enjoying an outstanding debut season with a licence and the fast-improving Phantom Flight can give him a second Listed winner of the campaign here.

Newbury 2.15 The colt Manaccan has progressed throughout the season and looked more than ready for this step up to Group Three company when successful in a Listed event at the Leger meeting. **Ayr 2.30** The Silver Cup is even more competitive than the feature event but Oso Rapido is still on a workable mark and looked a little unlucky not to win a well-run race at Redcar earlier this week.

Newbury 2.50 Sakheer was an impressive winner at Haydock two weeks ago but the third and fifth home there have been beaten since and Shouldvebeenaring is a solid alternative at around 5-2.

Ayr 3.05 A close second in the Lowther Stakes at York last month puts Queen Me several pounds in front of her field and she will be hard to beat if she remains in similar form.

Newbury 3.25 At Glorious Goodwood Warren Point was value for more than his winning margin and will be fancied to follow up despite an 8lb rise in the weights.

Chess

Firouzja profits from mistakes to sweep tour

Leonard Barden

Alireza Firouzja strengthened his position among the world's elite last weekend when the former Iranian, now French, 19-year-old made a clean sweep at St Louis where he won the rapid, the blitz, the classical Sinquefield Cup and the overall Grand Tour.

He collected \$272,000 in prize money and defeated the Candidates winner, Ian Nepomniachtchi, in the final tie-break.

Yet it was the actions and missed opportunities of Firouzja's rivals as much as his own good chess which created the golden moment. Magnus Carlsen's shock withdrawal and the later unproven allegations against Hans Niemann made for a nervous atmosphere in the tournament and affected the overall quality. Tacitly agreed draws and outright blunders were more frequent than normal.

Wesley So was the favourite after Carlsen pulled out, but the former Filipino spoilt his chances when he miscalculated and lost a winning position against Firouzja in the penultimate round. So's comment was brief and self-deprecating: "It was probably one of my biggest chokes in my history of choking, which happens quite a lot." In the final round Nepomniachtchi could have taken a loose pawn for nothing but instead chose a weaker plan, then allowed a draw by repetition. Why did he not take the pawn? "Because I'm a moron! I thought it's winning by any sequence of moves."

Following Carlsen's withdrawal

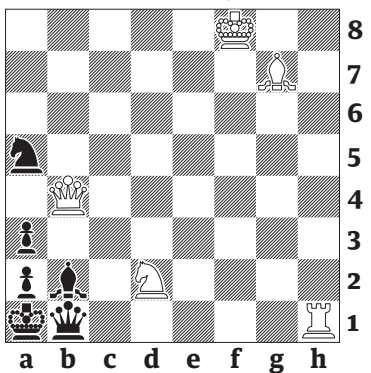
after his third-round loss to Niemann, the organisers issued an official statement which denied wrongdoing by any player throughout the event: "Measures included scanning of players with metal detectors ... and fair play analysis by Professor Kenneth Regan using the Fide Game Screening Tool."

Meanwhile fresh allegations and rebuttals have emerged about Niemann's play in 2019-21. Garry Kasparov has called for clarity. The affair is set to rumble on.

It is surely time for Fide to step in. An investigatory commission of three, headed by professor Kenneth Regan whose work is widely respected, could be set up to examine Niemann's games over the board in the last three years. There are several hundred of them, almost all easily available on public databases, so it should be possible to reach an informed conclusion within a few weeks.

Tomorrow the online Julius Baer Generation Cup begins, with 16 players representing both the established world top and rising teenagers. One pairing stands out. In round six, starting at 6pm on Monday, Niemann plays White against Carlsen. A huge audience will be watching.

3833 White mates in two moves, against any defence (composer unknown). This looks trivial but the solution can be visually difficult.



Other variations are obvious. 1 Qb7! If Nb7 2 Nb3, or Bg7 + 2 Qxg7. ££££

Sport In brief

Golf

Fitzpatrick takes lead despite inconsistency

The US Open champion Matt Fitzpatrick set the clubhouse target in the Italian Open despite bemoaning an "inconsistent" display in Rome. Fitzpatrick had to complete the final three holes of his first round yesterday after Thursday's weather delay and made two birdies and a bogey to complete an opening 65.

The world No 11 then started his second round on the back nine at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club and bogeyed the 10th but followed that with five straight birdies to open up a four-shot lead. However, Fitzpatrick dropped shots on the 16th and 17th and made his first par of the day on the 18th before covering the front nine in level par with two birdies and two bogeys. The resulting 69 gave him a halfway total of eight under par and a one-shot lead over

his fellow Englishman Tom Lewis, with France's Victor Perez another stroke behind. The Ryder Cup captain, Luke Donald, who will lead Europe's bid to regain the trophy at the same venue next year, lies three shots off the lead after a 68 which included a two-shot penalty for playing the wrong ball. **PA Media**

Equestrianism

GB eventers lead after 'dream' dressage start

Oliver Townend reflected on "a dream start" for Great Britain's eventers after they took a commanding lead following the world championship dressage phase in Italy. Townend has been reunited with his Tokyo Olympics gold medal colleagues Laura Collett and Tom McEwen in a quest to retain the world team title, with the reigning world champion, Ros Canter, completing a powerful British quartet. They delivered an immediate statement of intent, with Collett second on London 52, Townend sixth aboard Ballaghmor Class, McEwen seventh on Toledo De Kerster and Canter in 14th spot with Lordships Graffalo from 89 starters. **PA Media**



Fast and furious

Fabien Lavoie of Canada takes a tumble after a challenge from Adrien Chalmin of France at the Wheelchair Rugby Quad Nations in Cardiff



MARK LEWIS/HUW EVANS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Sport



Quins frustrated Smith forced to sit out showdown with Saracens

Page 13 →

for England's final fixtures before Qatar 2022. Last week Liz Truss announced that you will have to pay only £2,500 on your energy bills, while also (follow the ball under the cup) funding this via £100bn in taxes. This week the French government also capped energy payments and, by extension, payments to Qatar's gas industry, at a cost of billions to their own public purse.

Also this week Qatar opened the magnificent \$767m Lusail Stadium, which really is a lot of money, but no biggie because they, and indeed you, have got this covered. Did we mention Kylian Mbappé scored again? Those dots are so connected it almost seems too obvious to draw a line between them. Everyone knows football is in hock to fossil fuels and ambitious nation states. But the war in Ukraine, the loss of Russian energy, the profiteering of Opec+ has put this into brutal focus. To the extent that it is worth taking a moment to consider how that flow of power and money is playing out, with football sat like a cackling Lord Haw-Haw in the middle of it.

There is almost a kind of dark Fifa comedy here. A war started by the last World Cup hosts is now filling the coffers of the next World Cup hosts, while generating mind-boggling profits for the latest 2030 bidders and current owners of Newcastle United. In the middle of which there is a real prospect that two months from now you could be watching the World Cup under a blanket, while a nation that is profiting from you being under a blanket stages its grand spectacular, paid for by you being under a blanket.

Here is a spectacle that is, in the end, being paid for through your excess energy bills, even as the UK goes cap in hand for Qatar's gas reserves. Let me entertain you. But let me also impoverish you. Watch David Beckham shaking hands with the sheikh. Then go to the food bank. When will this not be OK? Closer to home, as the people of Britain seek relief from fuel poverty this winter, they will at least have the chance to celebrate the football glory paid for by those who benefit directly from this struggle. Menaced by global energy prices? Announce Dembélé! A billion pounds in the window! Give me just enough bread and just enough of a circus.

Football is of course just a public relations strand here, a noise around the politics driving this dynamic. But shouldn't we at least be sceptical of that process? Shouldn't we mention it? Or factor in how we plan to consume it or celebrate the people in charge? And this really is a genuine power-shift. Recently, Saudi Aramco announced what are reportedly the biggest quarterly profits in the history of companies having profits, all of which bodes well, naturally, for Eddie Howe's complex squad-building needs. Those high prices are a result of the war in Ukraine.

But don't be fooled by the arms-length commercial relationships. In a market where prices and supply are agreed and inter-related there are only dealers and customers, led by a group at the centre that has complete control over the world's addiction to carbon. And in the meantime you're basically paying for this power-play every time you turn the heating on for a treat, paying for Shell's profits too, for EDF's profits, for Chris Wood's wages.

This is everywhere in football. Chelsea's new owners have heavy Saudi investment, not connected to the purchase of the club. Abu Dhabi's national energy company, owned by the same people that own the league champions, has seen profits rocket by 63% during the energy crisis. Meanwhile, about 15% of Greater Manchester households are living in fuel poverty, a horrendous state of affairs that will only get worse as the glorious winter of oil-ball closes in. But hey, Haaland looks good. And all the while it's getting just a little bit colder out there.



DAVID HUMPHRIES

Cold comfort

Get ready to shiver while you watch a World Cup you helped to pay for

Barney Ronay



Shortly after midday on 22 November 1963 Aldous Huxley, novelist turned consciousness-expander, was lying in bed dying. And not just dying, but dying on acid. As his wife prepped his final dose of LSD she heard on the radio that something else had happened. John F Kennedy had been shot. This presented a dilemma.

Did Huxley really need to be told one of the most mind-blowing events of the 20th century has also just happened? In the event, Huxley was allowed to drift off, swaddled in his private ecstasies, undisturbed by half-grasped visions of grassy knolls or the Dallas police. And the reason for mentioning this here is that this image has sprung to mind a lot in recent weeks while being entertained and distracted by professional sport; and at the same time half-following the endless scroll of news and counter-news from what we must, out of habit, call the "real world".

There you are quietly deciphering the Cruyff-based iconography of Erling Haaland's flying volley, and someone keeps tugging at your sleeve saying, you really need to concentrate on the imminent hostile collapse of the established world order. They're opening "warmth-hubs" in the north of England for when the gas runs out. But hey, Todd Boehly's all-star game has DIVIDED football. Can you just keep it down for a bit? We're trying to die blissfully on acid in here.

In the middle of this there is one topic that keeps cutting across these two worlds; and which has for now been allowed just to sit there. The thing is, we probably do have to think about it now.

This week Gareth Southgate announced his squad